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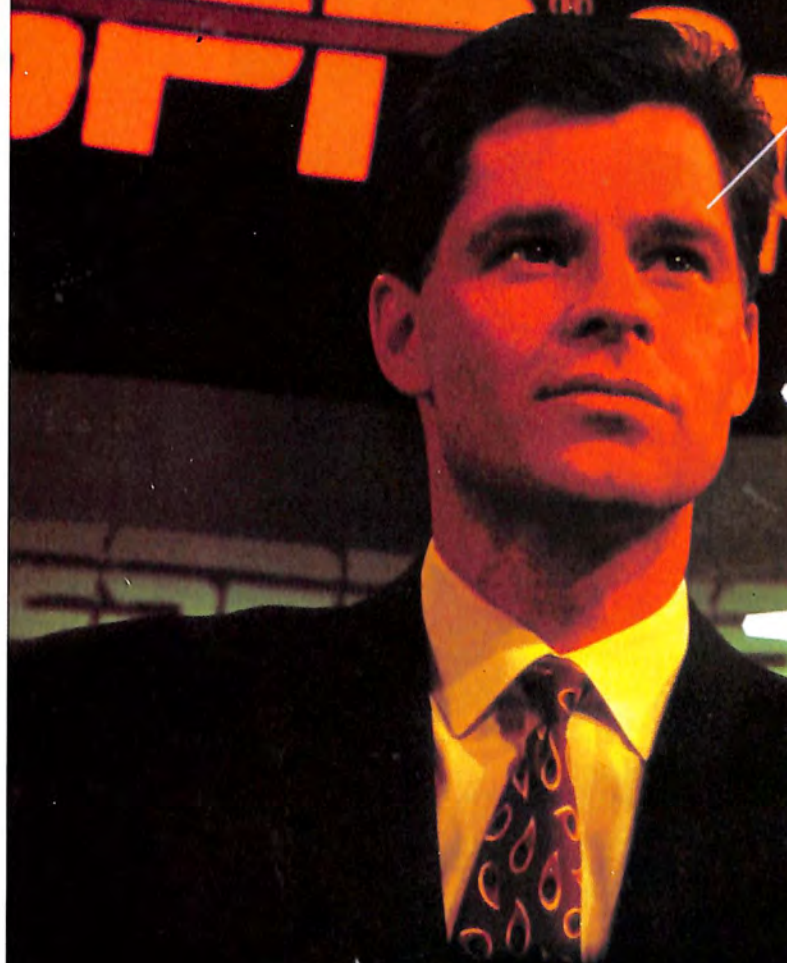
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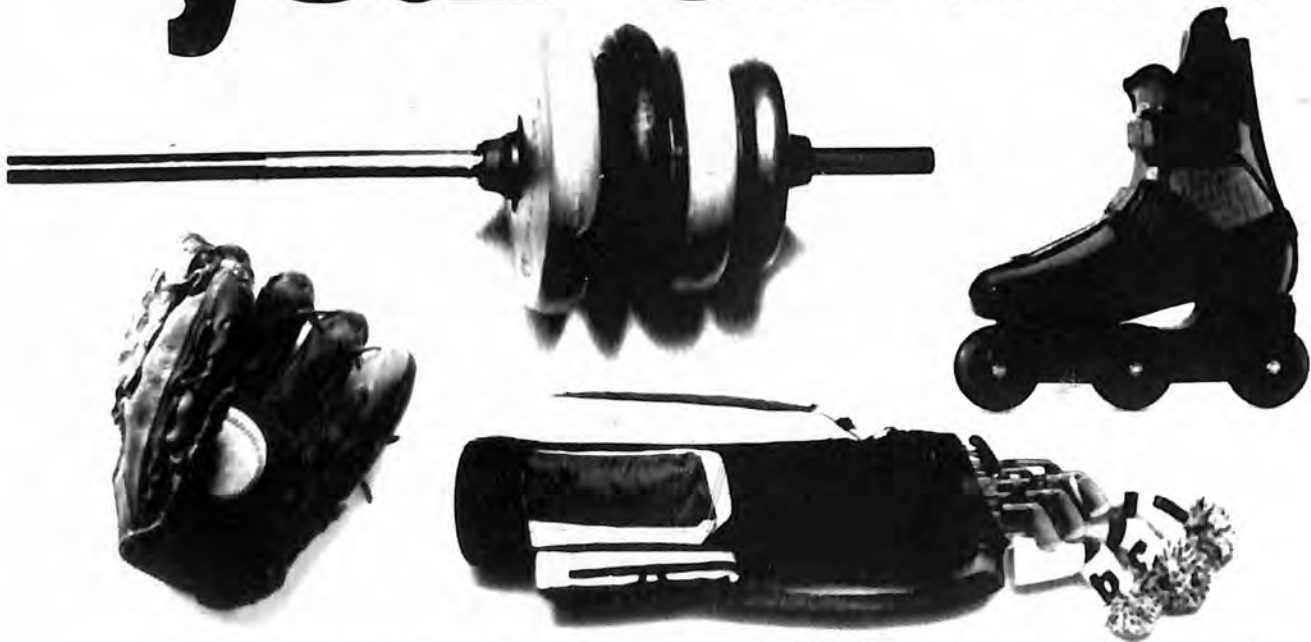
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Opening Shot

Welcome to the Orange Bowl Commemorative issue of **FINAL SCORE** magazine. We are proud to say that this issue is bigger and better than any of our previous issues. Without question, we feel that we have the best Orange Bowl coverage of any other publication in existence. Our photos tell the story of the National Championship game and are top quality so we know that you'll love it. You see, we're serious when we say we are 100% committed to providing the best coverage of sports in the region we live in, the midwest. (A.K.A. Big Red Country)

The Nebraska Cornhuskers made an unbelievable run in 1994. So, **FINAL SCORE** went back to relive some of the great moments that made this the best season ever. Now that the Huskers are National Champions, Big Red fans should sit back and absorb as much coverage as possible. Go out and buy the season-in-review tapes, papers and magazines. You deserve it. We've all waited a long time for this.

Congratulations to Tom Osborne and the entire Husker football team. January 1, 1994 was a special moment in Husker history. **FINAL SCORE** was right there in Miami to capture it all. We were there to witness all of the electricity and emotion from the game. Be sure not to miss our Orange Bowl recap for the whole story. Read our first hand account of the entire National Championship season complete with full color photos and full team statistics from every game.

There's nothing else to talk about. It's time for you to sit back and enjoy your Orange Bowl issue. Remember to subscribe to **FINAL SCORE** today so that you can get the best in sports coverage tomorrow. Call us at 1-800-35-FINAL (1-800-353-4625) It's only \$32.00 for an entire year. You'll get 26 issues of second to none, full color coverage of sports in Nebraska and around the Midwest. Enough of the sales pitch, on with the issue. Also, feel free to write or call us to let us know what you think about **FINAL SCORE** or any other sports topic. Write to:

FINAL SCORE magazine
P.O. Box 34668
Omaha, NE. 68134

We'd love to hear what you have to say. Let us know what you thought about Nebraska's National Championship run. We'll publish your letter in the next issue of **FINAL SCORE**. Thanks for the support and enjoy the best in Orange Bowl coverage.

Sincerely,

The Editors

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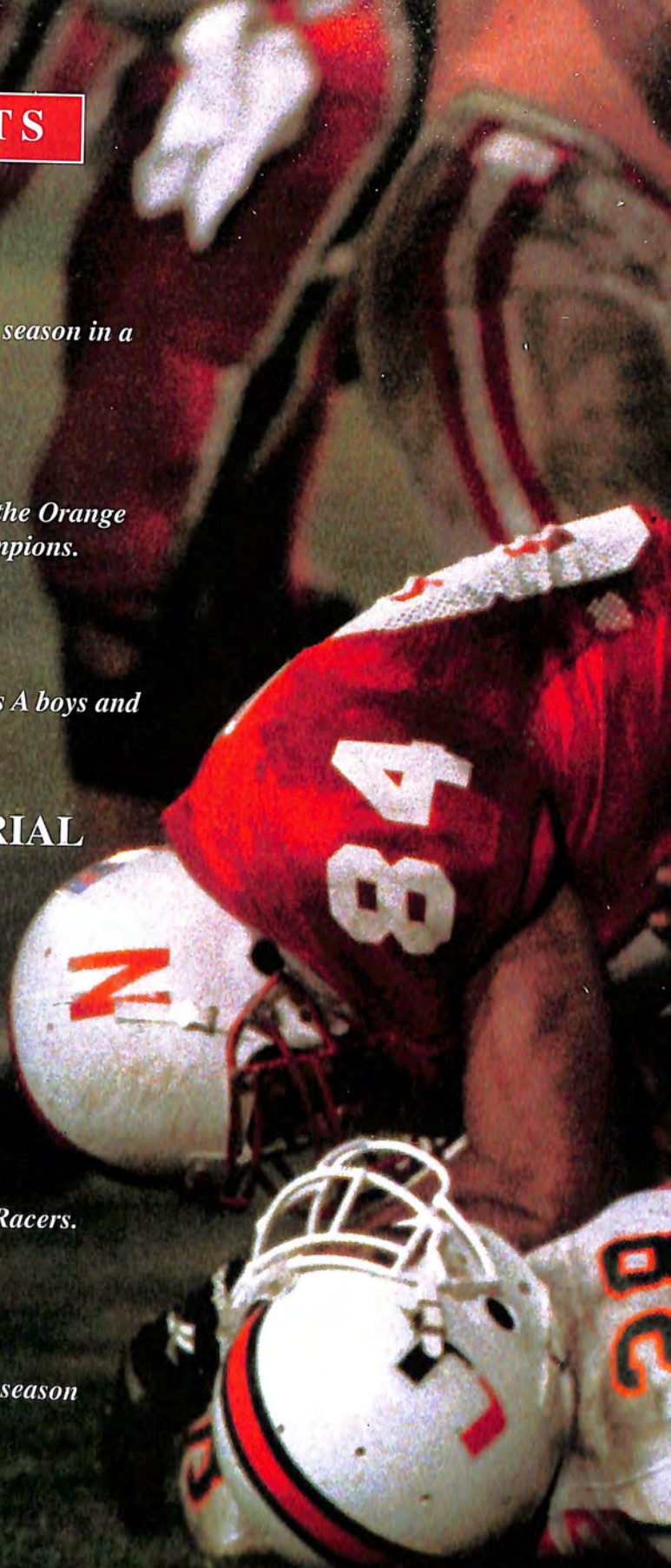
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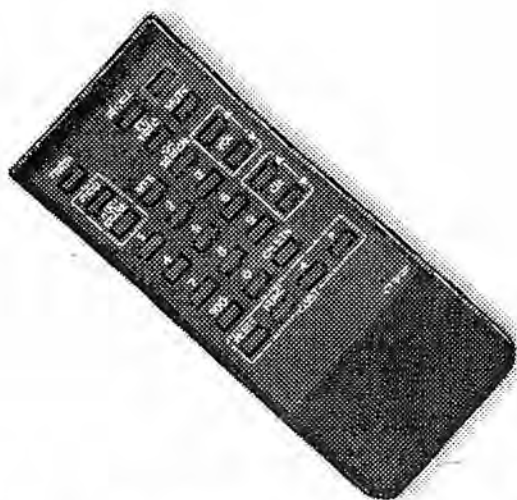
by John Bishop





Jason Young-FINAL SCORE

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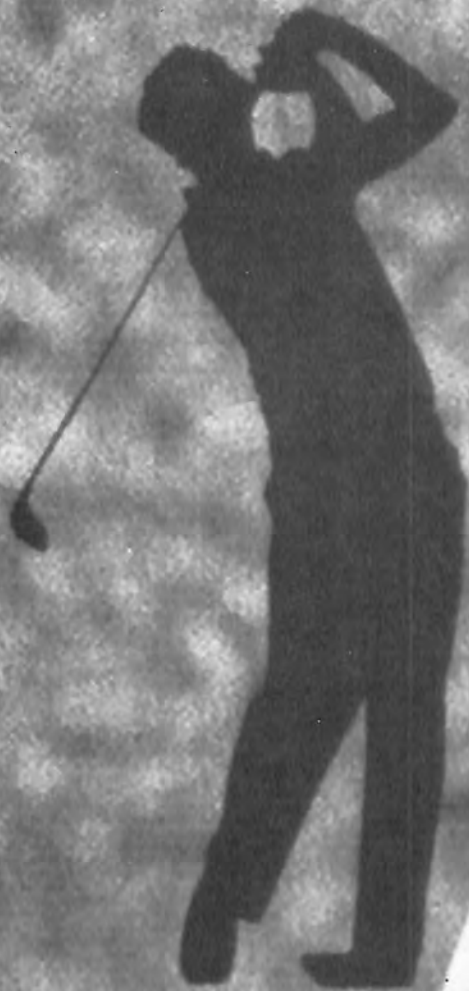
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January 1st, 1994

I remember getting chills and screaming. I had goose bumps covering every inch of my body as Byron Bennett's 27-yard field goal sailed through the up-rights. Only 1:16 away from the National Championship. The impossible dream had become reality and Nebraskans across the country felt unified. All those years of frustration had been cast away like a dirty towel. But something went wrong; dreadfully wrong. How could this be, Scott Bentley was lining up for a 22-yard field goal. All of the sudden it was 18-16 Florida State.

Surely our heroes wouldn't let us down. The magnificent warrior Tommie Frazier would bring us back. And he did. He put us back in position to win the game. The entire nation couldn't believe it. With Bobby Bowden still dripping with Gatorade, and sports writers across the nation in shock, Byron Bennett prepared to win the game. He would become the hero of college football, always to be remem-

bered as the guy who made, "the kick". But it hooked wide left.

Nebraskans mourned. The national media cheered and just like that, everyone forgot about the Cornhuskers. Immediately, the announcers on NBC began to wonder who was number one; Florida State or Notre Dame? Not one word about the valiant effort given by the Huskers. No one wanted to talk about how the 17-point underdog outplayed the "unbeatable" Seminoles. Only ESPN's Craig James and Lee Corso brought up the fact that Nebraska outplayed its opponent.

To most of the nation, all that really did matter was the final score. But for Husker players, coaches and fans, it was just the beginning. The beginning of a long, prosperous road which saw a second straight undefeated regular season and a second straight shot at the National Championship. Get comfortable and enjoy **FINAL SCORE's**.....



JASON YOUNG - FINAL SCORE

SEASON IN REVIEW

A RE-CAP OF THE '94-'95 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

BY GRANT KAUFMAN

August 28, 1994
East Rutherford, NJ

West Virginia 1

The late summer heat pelted us in the Meadowlands parking lot. It didn't seem like the first college football game of the new year was upon us. Surrounded by West Virginia fans, we enjoyed our tailgate lunch quietly. Chants of, "Overrated!" began to emerge from the navy and gold clad Mountaineer backers. Suddenly, a different sort of hunger started to develop within me and a turkey on pumpernickel wasn't going to cut it.

Over 20 years of "Husker Mania" was bubbling inside of me and as we walked towards the stadium, it came to a rapid boil. I stood in line at a souvenir stand, and a loud roar erupted from behind me. The familiar goose bumps rose on the back of my neck and I knew. I could just tell the roar was the Husker faithful greeting the 1994 team, and I was right. There's something special about a Nebraska crowd. It's a unique sound that only Husker fans can understand.

By the time the game and season kicked-off, an electricity had formed and it wasn't long after, that West Virginia players, coaches and fans got a taste of what Nebraska football is all about.

The Huskers dominated from the opening kick to the final gun. Even though Nebraska only scored three points in the first quarter, there was a sense of control. Tommie Frazier led a second quarter barrage of 21 points on two touchdown runs of 25 and 27 and a 12-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Baul. The Blackshirts were more dominating than the offense. The Mountaineers couldn't move the ball all afternoon. Led by two New Jersey natives, Doug Colman and Christian Peter, the Huskers didn't allow West Virginia past midfield in the first half. At halftime, it was Nebraska 24 West Virginia 0.

The second half, saw more of the same as the Blackshirts held WVU to only 89 total yards. Frazier added to the scoring with a 42-yard dash and the Huskers went on to a 31-0 victory to "Kickoff" the season.

Leaving the stadium, there was a sense of "Unfinished Business" by the players, coaches and even the fans. This was only a small stop on the long journey. One hurdle had been crossed with eleven more to go. The victory was a great way to start the season, but the turnovers and mistakes left room for improvement. **Huskers 31 West Virginia 0 (1-0)**

Scoring Summary

Nebraska	3	21	0	7—31
West Virginia	0*	0	0	0—0

Team Statistics

	NU	WVA
1st Downs	28	9
Rushing Att-Yds	60-368	38-8
Passes	8-17-2	6-19-2



COURTESY-DENNIS HUBBARD

Passing Yards	100	81
Total Yards	468	89
Returns-Yds.	9-152	4-10
Sacks	8-48	0
Punts-Avg.	3-48.3	9-60.1
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	4-1
Penalties-Yds.	6-41	5-44
Time of Poss.	33:52	26:08

NU leaders

Rushing: Frazier; 12-130-3, Phillips; 24-126-0

Passing: Frazier; 8-16-100-2

Receiving: Baul; 3-46-1

Interceptions: Barron Miles 1-7, Sedric Collins 1-8

Tackles: Doug Colman 4-4-8, Ed Stewart 4-3-7, Christian Peter 4-3-7

Sacks: Peter 2.5-5

Texas Tech 2

September 8, 1994
Lubbock, TX

A warm September evening in Texas. That was the setting for the Huskers nationally tele-

vised game with Texas Tech. Nebraska headed into its Thursday night ESPN game with the Red Raiders as the new number one team in the country according to the USA/CNN Coaches Poll. The Huskers were number two in the AP Poll.

It didn't take long for Nebraska to strike as Tommie Frazier took off on a 58-yard run with just two minutes gone in the game. After that, things got a bit shaky. Nebraska's offense looked flat but the defense continued to make big plays. After another Frazier touchdown run, (3-yards) the Huskers led 14-0 but couldn't produce again until the third quarter. Tech was the first team in the 1994 season to score on the Blackshirts with a 49 yard field goal in the second quarter. At the half, Nebraska led 14-3.

The second half saw the Red Raiders come out and score on its first possession, but failed a two-point attempt. That was the wake-up call the Huskers needed. Nebraska went on to score 21 consecutive points to seal the victory.

It was the second game in which Nebraska looked unstoppable at times but mistake prone.

The Blackshirts suffered their biggest loss of the season when starting free safety Mike Minter went down with a season-ending injury. With UCLA on the horizon, the secondary could little afford an injury like that.

Huskers 42 Texas Tech 16 (2-0)

Scoring Summary

Nebraska	7	7	14	14—42
Texas Tech	0	3	6	7—16

Team Statistics

	NU	TTU
1st Downs	26	17
Rushing Att.-Yds.	63-524	42-147
Passes	5-17-1	11-29-1
Passing Yards	88	150
Total Yards	612	297
Returns-Yds.	4-40	3-11
Sacks	3-16	0
Punts-Avg.	3-47.0	8-41.4
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties	5-44	4-30
Time of Poss.	33:50	26:10

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 19-175-2

Passing: Frazier 5-15-88-0

Receiving: Phillips 3-39-0, Eric Alford 1-35-1

Interceptions: Tony Veland

Tackles: Kareem Moss 5-2-7, Stewart 4-3-7

Sacks: Ryan Terwilliger 1-6, Jason Pesterfield 1-5

U.C.L.A.

3

September 17, 1994
Lincoln, NE.

This had been the date so many had been pointing to since January 2nd. The prospect of a match-up between two undefeated and nationally ranked teams was no longer a wish but a reality. Plus, it was the home opener which are always a special moment in any Husker football season, but the 1994 opener had something extra. This was the first time the Husker faithful had seen their team after the Orange Bowl loss, plus they were number one in the country and playing a nationally ranked opponent in the first ever game with HuskerVision.

For those who were there, it was magical. For those who were not, just try to imagine:

Memorial Stadium is buzzing with excitement. Imagine the smell of popcorn and hotdogs, and try to picture the sound of the crowd filing into their seats, and the Pride of All Nebraska. By the time the band finishes "Hail Varsity" and the National Anthem, the crowd is foaming at the mouth anticipating the Huskers' arrival. Without warning or provocation, the crowd begins to stand and roar. Lost in the sound of 76,000 rabid Husker fans are the visitors from California and their followers. They appear only

to be a silent group of spectators as the Bruins run onto the field. Suddenly, it happens. The stadium shakes with low, horror movie-like music, thundering from the new sound system as HuskerVision lights up. An image appears. It's one that leaves you awestruck. The Huskers are slowly exiting the tunnel under the south stands. The camera angle is low, making the players seem that much bigger, but on this day, no one is bigger than the Big Red. With a near deafening roar, the Huskers take the field and the waiting is over.

The stage was set for a major college showdown on national television as the undefeated #1 and #2 ranked Huskers played host to the high



COURTESY-DENNIS HUBBARD

flying, 12th and 13th ranked UCLA Bruins. What was supposed to be a Heisman Candidate showcase between Tommie Frazier and J.J. Stokes, never materialized as Stokes sat out with a deep thigh bruise.

Frazier was masterful in directing the Huskers' high powered attack, but it was Lawrence Phillips who shined the brightest, rushing for 178 yards on only 19 carries and one touchdown. The Husker offensive line showed to the nation why it is considered the best, by hammering UCLA into submission with 484 yards rushing. To best summarize the game, Nebraska's Zach Wiegert earned ABC's Most Valuable Player Award for his performance.

Although the Bruins totaled 414 total yards and 21 points, the Blackshirts stiffened when they had to. It was another great victory for Nebraska in their series with UCLA.

Huskers 42 UCLA 21 (3-0)

Scoring Summary

UCLA	0	7	7	7—21
Nebraska	12	16	7	14—42

Team Statistics

	UCLA	NU
1st Downs	24	31
Rushing Att.-Yds	35-129	65-484
Passes	21-35-2	6-12-0
Passing Yards	285	71
Total Yards	414	555
Return-Yds.	2-13	5-17
Sacks	0	2-13
Punts-Avg.	4-40.5	3-47.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1

Penalties-Yds.	4-25	7-65
Time of Poss.	27:55	32:05

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 19-178-1

Passing: Frazier 5-11-59-0

Receiving: Alford 2-35-1

Interceptions: Clint Brown 1

Tackles: Troy Dumas 5-5-10,

Moss 5-5-10, Stewart 4-6-10

Sacks: Dwayne Harris 1.5-9

Pacific

September 24, 1994
Lincoln, NE.

4

This was the one game everyone wanted to overlook. It was a mismatch on paper and on the field. In fact, Tommie Frazier only played the first two series of the game. Lawrence Phillips carried the ball just nine time and still managed to get 138 yards and one touchdown. It was a day for the third and fourth stringers. The one positive that came out of this game was that guys like Brook Berringer got a chance to get some extra snaps. You never know when you'll need to call on the backup

quarterback.

In fact, Frazier almost didn't start because of a sore calf muscle. This was the perfect game to have on the schedule for that sort of situation. It gives him and others time to rest and get healthy for the Wyoming game and the Big 8 schedule.

Damon Benning and Clinton Childs got the opportunity to get some more carries and rushing for 87 and 64 yards respectively. The Huskers gained 699 yards of total offense, 510 on the ground. Defensively, Nebraska got to play more guys than usual. In fact, the team was led by two reserves in tackles, Darren Schmadeke with 8 and Octavious McFarlin with 7. Barron Miles blocked his second and third punts of the year while Leslie Dennis returned an interception for 48 yards.

All in all it was an unmemorable day at Memorial Stadium.

FINAL SCORE

Scoring Summary

Pacific	0	0	14	7—21
Nebraska 28	21	14	7—70	

Team Statistics

	PAC	NU
1st Downs	20	32
Rushing Att.-Yds	25-84	59-510
Passes	27-51-2	12-22-0
Passing Yards	290	189
Total Yards	374	699
Return-Yds.	1-(-2)	8-99
Sacks	1-5	1-4
Punts-Avg.	7-29.0	1-45.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties-Yds.	5-37	8-90
Time of Poss.	28:22	31:38

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 9-138-1

Passing: Brook Berringer 8-15-120-0

Receiving: Baul 2-26-0, Alford 1-46-1

Interceptions: Leslie Dennis 1-48, Tyrone Williams 1-6

Tackles: Darren Schmadeke 7-1-8, Octavius McFarlin 4-3-7

Sacks: Terry Connealy 1-4

an easy victory, even without Frazier. I find myself walking into a local sports establishment, who has the game on the big screen and the first thing I see, is a Wyoming wide receiver outrunning the Husker defensive backs for a touchdown midway through the first. 7-0 WU

I begin listening to the game so I won't miss the another big play. The Huskers are driving and Brook has finally found his rhythm. As he hits Abdul Muhammad for a big play, I breathe a sigh of relief and leave the car to deliver another stack of magazines. I enter another location with the game on the T.V. and much to my surprise, I see a Wyoming receiver streaking down the sideline and tackled deep in Husker territory. Turns out that Muhammad fumbled and the Cowboys took advantage. Just like that it's 14-0.

We all know that the Huskers will come back and they did. Berringer rushed for 74 yards and threw for another 131 in route to a 42-32 victory. Although the offense took awhile to get it going, it was the defense who sputtered. But they did stop the Cowboy's All-American Candidate Ryan Christopherson who had zero yards on 12 carries.

However, had it not been for a fumbled punt with 5:32 to go in the game, the Huskers might

have been upset and the dream season would have been gone. But they survived and Brook did just fine.

Huskers 42 Wyoming 32 (5-0)

Scoring Summary

Wyoming	14	7	3	8—32
Nebraska	0	14	21	7—42

Team Statistics

	WYO	NU
1st Downs	18	24
Rushing Att.-Yds	21-36	56-332
Passes	25-46-3	15-22-1
Passing Yards	344	131
Total Yards	380	453
Return-Yds.	4-5	7-53
Sacks	0	1-3
Punts-Avg.	7-41.6	8-42.4
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-1
Penalties-Yds.	6-30	9-91
Time of Poss.	25:40	34:20

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 27-168-3

Passing: Berringer 15-22-131-1

Receiving: Mark Gilman 4-48-0, Abdul Muhammad 4-30-0

Interceptions: Barron Miles 2-1

Tackles: Stewart 5-7-12

Sacks: Dwayne Harris 1-3

September 25, 1994

Lincoln, NE.

The one thing we didn't want to talk about in the off season was now upon us. We tried to avoid it at every turn, but this time, it was staring us in the face. Our leader, hero and quarterback was out. Gone was Tommie Frazier with a blood clot in his right leg. He was in the hospital for four days this week. They say he might be back for the Kansas State game, but a blood clot is nothing to play around with because it can be life threatening. As far as football goes, we shouldn't expect him until at least the Colorado game. All we can hope for is that Brook Berringer can fill in well enough to beat Wyoming, Oklahoma St., and possibly K-State and Missouri.

WYOMING
5

October 1, 1994

Lincoln, NE.

It's 1:45 PM and I'm distributing the newest issue of FINAL SCORE, with Barron Miles on the cover and a huge "Who's Number 1?" written next to him. I chose not to attend the Wyoming game, as it should be



JASON YOUNG - FINAL SCORE

Approximately 5:30 PM

Brook Berringer is hospitalized with a collapsed lung he suffered in this afternoon's game. The ultimate nightmare has come true. Not only did Frazier go down, but now Berringer's out and we only have a walk-on left. The second bittersweet win in a row.

One important thing to note is that ESPN's Lee Corso has just stated that Nebraska can not win the national championship with Brook Berringer at quarterback. He also added that we wouldn't beat Colorado with Brook.

October 4th, 1994

Lincoln, NE.

It's official, Tommie is gone for the season. He was re-admitted into the hospital with the blood clot and now things look a bit bleak. Brook may or may not play in the upcoming game, leaving Matt Turman as the next choice. We should be able to survive the Oklahoma State game with Turman, but the undefeated

Wildcats are looming very large in the horizon.

Brook is going to have to take this team over and rise above the adversity. The Blackshirts are going to have to avoid any games like they had against Wyoming because Mr. May and Mr. Stewart are waiting to take our title.

October 8, 1994
Lincoln, NE.

OKLAHOMA STATE 6

Surprise, surprise, the Huskers dropped in the coaches poll. Without Frazier, everyone is looking for the Big Red to fail. It looked like a self-fulfilling prophecy against Oklahoma State as the Cowboys led 3-0 after one quarter. With Berringer not fully recovered, the Husker's offense was limited in its play selection. After a Lawrence Phillips 2-yard run, (extra point failed), Nebraska led 6-3. The remainder of the first half was a stale mate until Darin Erstad hit a career long 48-yard field goal. NU led 9-3 at half.

Sportswriters around the country were probably laughing and crowning Colorado as Big 8 Champions by now. There's nothing worse than a know-it-all who's right. Lee Corso actually might be right.

To make things worse, Brook is back in the hospital at halftime because he needs his lung reinflated. "Gulp" Matt Turman is now the man. Everyone across the country is counting out the Huskers. I, myself am beginning to worry a bit. But, this team thrives on adversity. Anyone who has been around them in the past couple of years should know that by now. Maybe we should keep it a secret.

The second half was all Huskers, on both sides of the ball. The offensive line, starts to dominate the line of scrimmage and the defense is a brick wall. Lawrence Phillips dazzles the crowd in route to a career high 221 yards and 3 touchdowns. The Blackshirts hold the Cowboys to only two first downs and allowed them to cross midfield one time. It becomes pure Nebraska football! Oklahoma State can't get anything accomplished and the Huskers clear another hurdle.

Huskers 32 Oklahoma State 3 (6-0)

Scoring Summary

Oklahoma St.	3	0	0	0—3
Nebraska	0	9	16	7—32

Team Statistics

	OSU	NU
1st Downs	7	30
Rushing Att.-Yds	31-40	68-372
Passes	6-20-1	12-20-0
Passing Yards	96	103
Total Yards	136	475
Return-Yds.	1-5	5-68
Sacks	0	3-23
Punts-Avg.	9-41.3	2-34.5
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	4-3



JASON YOUNG - FINAL SCORE

Penalties-Yds.	3-31	5-49
Time of Poss.	23:05	36:55

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 33-221-3

Passing: Berringer 10-15-75-0

Receiving: Abdul Muhammad 4-53-0

Interceptions: Kareem Moss 1-0-0

Tackles: Stewart 3-7-10, Christian Peter 3-6-9

Sacks: Connealy 1-9, Jason Pesterfield 1-8, Pester 1-6

KANSAS STATE 7

October 15, 1994
Manhattan, KS

It's 5:30 AM and Jason Young, our chief photographer, and I are on a mission to Manhattan, Kansas. All week long, the talk has been on Chad May and how he will pick apart the Blackshirts. In addition, Brook is on the bench unless there is an emergency situation. With Matt Turman starting, they say the Huskers don't stand a chance. The weather is forecast to be cold and rainy. Everything is going against the Big Red. This is the game the Cats make up for years of frustration. So they say.

Driving up to the stadium, we see some-

thing that many people probably didn't think they'd ever see. A man, dressed in Wildcat clothes, walking up and down the main street flashing a sign at cars that read: "Need 2 Tickets". There's a strange feeling in the air, but we can't quite place it.

Kickoff

The feeling I talked about earlier is back. The stadium is packed and loud. I remember coming here as a boy and the place was more than half red. Now, Nebraskans are limited to the corner of the endzone. Still, they are loud, very loud.

As kickoff nears, the rain began to fall. In fact, it started at nearly the exact same time the home crowd started screaming, "Bring On The Cats". The place nearly collapsed when the Wildcat Roar engulfed the stadium right before the K-State entrance. That feeling suddenly came over me again. This time, I know what it is. These people honestly believe they are going to beat Nebraska. It was at that moment that I came to realize the magnitude of the war that was about to unfold.

With Matt Turman starting, Nebraska was limited to running a large number of traps and counters with some options. K-State is ready with an 8-man front, attacking Lawrence Phillips



<u>Team Statistics</u>	<u>NU</u>	<u>KSU</u>
1st Downs	16	17
Rushing Att.-Yds	50-210	23-(-7)
Passes	4-11-0	22-48-1
Passing Yards	52	249
Total Yards	262	242
Return-Yds.	4-74	3-17
Sacks	6-53	0
Punts-Avg.	7-37.3	8-36.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-0
Penalties-Yds.	9-70	12-102
Time of Poss.	31:26	8:34

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 31-117-1

Passing: Berringer 12-7-37-0

Receiving: Phillips 2-15-0

Interceptions: Troy Dumas 1-54-0

Tackles: Stewart 4-5-9, Christian Peter 5-3-8

Sacks: Grant Wistrom 2-24

MISSOURI
8

October 22, 1994
Columbia, Mo.

Nebraska is still ranked 2nd and 3rd. After what we thought was an impressive victory over K-State, there is talk around the country of Nebraska "only" beating the Wildcats by 11. It's unbelievable how quickly these know-it-all sportswriters turn on Nebraska. One week, they're number one, the next they're overrated. The only way to counter is to keep winning.

The struggling Tigers were billed as being no match for the Huskers, and they weren't. But they did put up a fight. Nebraska was held scoreless for the entire first quarter. But a Phillips 5-yard run and a Damon Benning 9-yard run, put Nebraska ahead 14-0 at halftime.

For the third week in a row, the Blackshirts dominated. In fact, they held Missouri to under 50 yard rushing, which is the fourth straight time they have done so. Early in the second half they were put to their toughest test of the game. After a wild pitch by Berringer to Phillips inside the Husker 10, Missouri threatened to pull within a touchdown and put the crowd back in the game. But Barron Miles forced a fumble at the 1-yard line which Ed Stewart recovered in the endzone.

From then on, it was all Huskers. Berringer threw two touchdown passes, one to Mark Gilman and one to Brendan Holbein. Missouri scored its only touchdown with 7:36 left to play. Add on two more Husker scores and that was the final score.

Huskers 42 Missouri 7 (8-0)

Scoring Summary

Nebraska	0	14	14	14	—42
Missouri	0	0	0	7	—7

<u>Team Statistics</u>	<u>NU</u>	<u>MU</u>
1st Downs	23	13
Rushing Att.-Yds	58-330	29-48

from all sides. The offense is sputtering under the conditions, but they manage a touchdown midway through the first quarter on a 2-yard run by Phillips. K-State counters with a touchdown early in the second and the that was all of the scoring in the first half.

It was late in the first half when Brook was called to duty. He was limited to some passing and no options or audibles as to protect his collapsed lung. But his presence was enough as the Huskers began to wear down Kansas State in the second half. Jeff Makovicka's fourth quarter touchdown capped off a vintage Nebraska drive consisting of eleven smash-mouth plays.

The performance by the Blackshirts was dominating. And this ballgame exemplified the heart and soul of the Husker defense. Backs to

the wall, with the world against them. But the Cats could produce no more than a second quarter score. Sacking Chad May six times, the Huskers let the Big 8 and the rest of the nation know that this is a team on a mission.

Nebraska not only escaped, but proved a huge point that you should never count the Big Red out.

Huskers 17 Kansas State 6 (7-0)

Scoring Summary

Nebraska	7	0	0	10	—17
Kansas St.	0	6	0	0	—6

COURTESY-DENNIS HUBBARD

October 29, 1994
Lincoln, NE.

COLORADO
9

Passes	9-13-0	9-32-1
Passing Yards	152	150
Total Yards	482	198
Return-Yds.	7-71	2-1
Sacks	3-23	0
Punts-Avg.	4-42.3	9-39.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-1
Penalties-Yds.	9-75	5-50
Time of Poss.	31:31	28:29

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 22-110-1

Passing: Berringer 9-13-152-0

Receiving: Abdul Muhammad 2-23-0

Interceptions: Barron Miles 1-27

Tackles: Stewart 3-5-8, Dumas 2-6-8

Sacks: Pesterfield 1-13, Harris 1-7, Phil Ellis 1-3

The stage has been set. It can no longer be avoided. Two undefeated and 2nd and 3rd ranked teams. The Buffaloes were coming to town and were bringing a Heisman Candidate with them. Rashaan Salaam came into the game as the nation's leading rusher. In the previous weeks, Nebraska had limited its offense by protecting Brook. But now he was full speed and the offensive attack was back. ESPN's Lee Corso sat outside memorial stadium and predicted a Colorado victory. He was the guy who said Berringer couldn't lead Nebraska to the national championship. Remember that.

It's just before kickoff and Tommie Frazier, on national T.V. has predicted a Nebraska route. The comment surprised the reporter and was shrugged off. But Tommie was right on point.

The Huskers dominated Colorado from the beginning. On its first possession, they moved

the ball but were forced to punt. The next time the Huskers got the ball, they marched 51 yards and scored on a Cory Schlesinger 14-yard run.

Colorado could do nothing. They could not move the ball at all in the first half. In fact, the Buffaloes 40-point per game attack was held scoreless after the first 30 minutes.

Nebraska added to its lead with a Tom Sieler field goal and a Clinton Childs 2-yard run. Nebraska may have played its best half of football under Coach Osborne; ever! The game plan was fantastic and the execution was a thing of beauty. The Huskers manhandled Colorado from kick-off until halftime in a brilliant display of classic Midwestern football.

The third quarter started just as the second had ended, with a Nebraska touchdown. Berringer hit Eric Alford for a 30 touchdown pass putting the Huskers ahead 24-0.

Again, the defense sticks it to Colorado. It's not until the 1:06 mark of the third quarter that a Buffalo crosses the goal line. Salaam scored on a 6-yard run but that was the end. From that point on, Colorado didn't threaten



November 5th, 1994
Lincoln, NE.

JASON YOUNG - FINAL SCORE

Finally, a little bit of respect. Nebraska is back on top of the polls after a sound thumping of Colorado. Even Lee Corso has jumped on the bandwagon. But beware, there is always the possibility of a letdown. The Colorado game, the K-State game and all of the other accomplishments could be thrown out of the window with a poor showing against Kansas.

Not to worry because these Huskers are focused. The Blackshirts have been dictating the last four games and this afternoon was no exception. Jayhawk quarterback Asheiki Preston, who nearly engineered an upset of the Huskers last season, found himself living a nightmare. The Blackshirts picked off two passes in the first three plays Kansas ran, and converted them to 10 early points.

The defense gave up a 41-yard field goal after a Nebraska turnover, then the Big Red machine got rolling. Nebraska scored touchdowns on its next four possessions and took a commanding 38-10 halftime lead.

The second half saw each team score one touchdown and the afternoon was over. Tom Osborne, again, showed why he is the classiest coach in the country. With the offense piling up over 600 yards, things could have been worse for the Jayhawks. But as he has done all season, Osborne stayed focused on the big picture.

Huskers 45 Kansas 17 (10-0)**Scoring Summary**

Kansas	3	7	0	7-17
Nebraska	24	14	7	0-45

again. Nebraska's Blackshirts played their best game to date. They just keep getting better. To hold this offense with Kordell Stewart, Michael Westbrook, and Salaam to only one touchdown in amazing.

Huskers 24 Colorado 7 (9-0)

After the game, Lee Corso speaks as if he's been following Brook Berringer since junior high. He now claims Nebraska is a better team with Brook than with Tommie. Corso is starting a quarterback controversy to take away from his contradicting viewpoints. Nebraskans should have expected this. Thank goodness for Craig James. I never thought I'd ever say that.

Scoring Summary

Colorado	0	0	7	0-7
Nebraska	7	10	7	0-24

Team Statistics

	CU	NU
1st Downs	18	20
Rushing Att.-Yds	37-155	53-203
Passes	13-30-0	12-17-1
Passing Yards	159	142
Total Yards	482	198
Return-Yds.	3-7	1-9
Sacks	0	4-28
Punts-Avg.	6-38.3	6-38.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yds.	4-30	6-41
Time of Poss.	21:36	38:24

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 24-103-0
Passing: Berringer 12-17-142-1
Receiving: Eric Alford 5-78-1
Interceptions: None
Tackles: Dumas 8-3-11
Sacks: Connealy 2-9

Team Statistics

	KU	NU
1st Downs	12	24
Rushing Att.-Yds	45-141	49-336
Passes	8-23-2	13-18
Passing Yards	129	267
Total Yards	270	603
Return-Yds.	1-26	7-39
Sacks	2-16	3-18
Punts-Avg.	6-39.5	3-49.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-1
Penalties-Yds.	2-11	4-26
Time of Poss.	31:16	28:44

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 21-153-2
Passing: Berringer 13-18-267-0
Receiving: Reggie Baul 3-106-1
Interceptions: Tony Veland 1-0-0, Tyrone Williams 1-0-0
Tackles: Moss 5-6-11



Jason Young - FINAL SCORE

Williams 1-0-0

Tackles: Moss 5-6-11

Sacks: Grant Wistrom 1-8, Moss 1-5, Colman 1-5

November 12, 1994
Ames, IA.

IOWA STATE
11

The Huskers are now number one in both polls, but have to return to the place of the upset. Two years ago, Nebraska was knocked off by the Cyclones and now, they are determined to do it again. With Jim Walden coaching his last game, the winless 'Clones go all out as they have nothing to lose.

Nebraska is unable to avoid a letdown-type performance. They turned the ball over three times, keeping Iowa State in the game. Once again, the defense comes to the rescue, holding the Cyclones to two first half field goals. Phillips is kept in check for the first 30 minutes of play and Berringer has trouble getting things

rolling as well. Finally, he hits Abdul Muhammad on a 38-yard touchdown pass with :57 left in the half, putting Nebraska up 14-6.

On paper, it looks like a convincing performance, but paper doesn't win football games. And near the end of the third quarter, it looked like the Huskers might not either. With the game still at 14-6, the Cyclones faked an option and went deep. Quarterback Todd Doxzon hit Calvin Branch for a 58-yard touchdown and just like that, things got very serious. Fortunately, Iowa State failed on a 2-point try and the Huskers still led.

Lawrence Phillips behind that overpowering offensive line took the game over in the fourth quarter. Phillips finished with 183 yards and two touchdowns. Damon Benning also scored in the fourth from 6 yards out and the rest was up to the defense.

The Blackshirts, who recorded six sacks on the day, made life miserable for the Cyclones. They could get no where near the goal line in the final period. The 1992 disaster would not

be repeated.

Huskers 28 Iowa State 12 (11-0)

Scoring Summary

Nebraska	7	-7	0	14	—28
Iowa State	3	-3	6	0	—12

Team Statistics

	<u>NU</u>	<u>ISU</u>
1st Downs	21	11
Rushing Att.-Yds	56-285	43-62
Passes	11-18-1	8-13-0
Passing Yards	193	151
Total Yards	478	213
Return-Yds.	3-3	4-7
Sacks	6-33	0
Punts-Avg.	5-41.6	8-45.1
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yds.	5-55	5-50
Time of Poss.	33:35	26:25

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 36-183-2

Passing: Berringer 11-18-193-1

Receiving: Phillips 4-40-0, Baul 3-49-0,

FINAL SCORE



Jason Young - FINAL SCORE

Muhammad 2-52-1

Interceptions: None

Tackles: Connealy 4-9-13, Stewart 7-6-13, Peter 4-7-11

Sacks: Stewart 2-9

November 25, 1994
Norman, OK

OKLAHOMA
12

How many times in the past 20 years has it come down to this. Nebraska and Oklahoma with the National Championship on the line. Adding to the drama was the fact that Tommie Frazier had been cleared to play in an emergency situation.

The day had been forecast as being sunny

and 60 degrees. But as we left the Holiday Inn, it was cold, cloudy and 40.. the weather was a perfect match for the battle that took place.

Grunge! Grit! Grunt!

Played on grass, and mud, the game quickly turned into a war for supremacy of the line of scrimmage. Oklahoma's quick defensive front made things difficult for the Husker offense. Nebraska's massive offensive line was handled much of the day. Brook Berringer was unable to get into a rhythm until the second half. Lawrence Phillips was hit one and two times before he even reached the line. Even the great Zach Wiegert had to pull sod out of his facemask a few times.

Defensively, it was like a broken record. The Blackshirts dominated from the outset and

didn't let down. The Sooner offense never had a chance all day. Which is a good thing with the way Oklahoma played.

The first quarter was a stalemate which was dominated by the defenses. Neither team was able to get on the board, but early in the second, Darin Erstad connected on a 46-yard field goal to put Nebraska on top. Oklahoma answered with a 25-yarder by Scott Blanton and that was it in the first half. If you like defensive football games, you would have loved to have been in Norman for this one.

The second half was similar to the first, with the exception being Nebraska scored 10 points and Oklahoma was shut out. Tom Sieler's 26-yard field goal with 7:03 left in the third, put the Huskers ahead for good.

Berringer, struggling for most of the day, began to find his rhythm and connected on some crucial passes. The biggest being to Abdul Muhammad for 44 yards in the fourth. This led to the only touchdown of the game as Berringer ran it in from 1 yard out.

The Blackshirts held Oklahoma to 47 yards in the second half and negative five yards in the fourth quarter. Again, the defense had done the job. Another step in route to the ultimate prize in college football. As long as the defense plays like this in the Orange Bowl, it should be a victorious plane ride home on January 2nd.

Huskers 13 Oklahoma 3 (12-0)

Scoring Summary

Nebraska	0	3	3	7	—13
Oklahoma	0	3	0	0	—3

Team Statistics

	NU	OU
1st Downs	18	10
Rushing Att.-Yds	50-136	32-108
Passes	13-23-1	6-18-2
Passing Yards	166	71
Total Yards	302	179
Return-Yds.	3-12	3-29
Sacks	3-17	2-24
Punts-Avg.	5-47.0	7-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-Yds.	4-28	5-35
Time of Poss.	36:48	23:12

NU Leaders

Rushing: Phillips 21-50-0

Passing: Berringer 13-23-166-1

Receiving: Muhammad 5-98-0

Interceptions: Miles 1-0, Moss 1-0

Tackles: Dumas 9-3-12, Peter 5-4-9

Sacks: Peter 1-9, Connealy 1-5



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Afterthought

12-0! Another regular season without a loss. And this past ye

ar is one in which Coach Tom Osborne deserves credit. But again, the national media overlooks Osborne in favor for a more marketable guy. Not a coach in the country had as difficult of a task as Osborne with all of the injuries at quarterback. And surely no one succeeded as he did under such adverse conditions. Yet, no national awards, no hype, and no mention on sports talk shows. But that's just the way he likes it.

An absolutely tremendous football season is about to be a memory. But the memory is one that will live in Nebraskans hearts forever. Remember how we all felt as the Huskers ran over West Virginia. Think back to the goose bumps we got seeing the Big Red pummel Texas Tech and UCLA on national television. Then remember how our hearts sunk when we found out Tommie had a blood clot. We were scared for his life and we suffered with him, keeping him in our thoughts as we went about our business.

Then remember how we reacted to the sterling performance of Brook Berringer when no one gave him a chance. We were so proud of that offensive line as they hammered out yard after yard. Don't forget about the receiving corp., those guys won our hearts every game.

Picture the Blackshirts, oh those Blackshirts. How proud we were after they stuffed the entire Big 8 Conference. Watching with pride as young men from so many different backgrounds came together to give all they got for Nebraska football. The way that team represents the state is a thing of beauty. Remember little Matt Turman and his courageous performances against Oklahoma State and Kansas State.

Yes in deed, the 1994 season was a team effort. Everyone in the state should be proud. How can we forget the Husker faithful flocking to stadiums across the country. Even in the Meadowlands, the small sea of red was a factor. And in Manhattan, the support was unreal. And of course Memorial Stadium, what more needs to be said. The 200th sellout at the Colorado game and the addition of Husker Vision and the Cornhusker Marching Band was once again among the best in the nation.

Lets all take a moment to reminisce about the past four months. Just sit down, relax for a minute and take it all in. Because the season is coming down to one, gigantic, climatic ending. The ride of our football life is about to hit the grand finale. Ladies and gentlemen, Husker fans from all walks of life, it's time to come together as one and put forth the greatest effort in Husker football history.

It's time to head to the Orange Bowl and finish our business. It's time to claim what is rightfully ours. It's a time for.....



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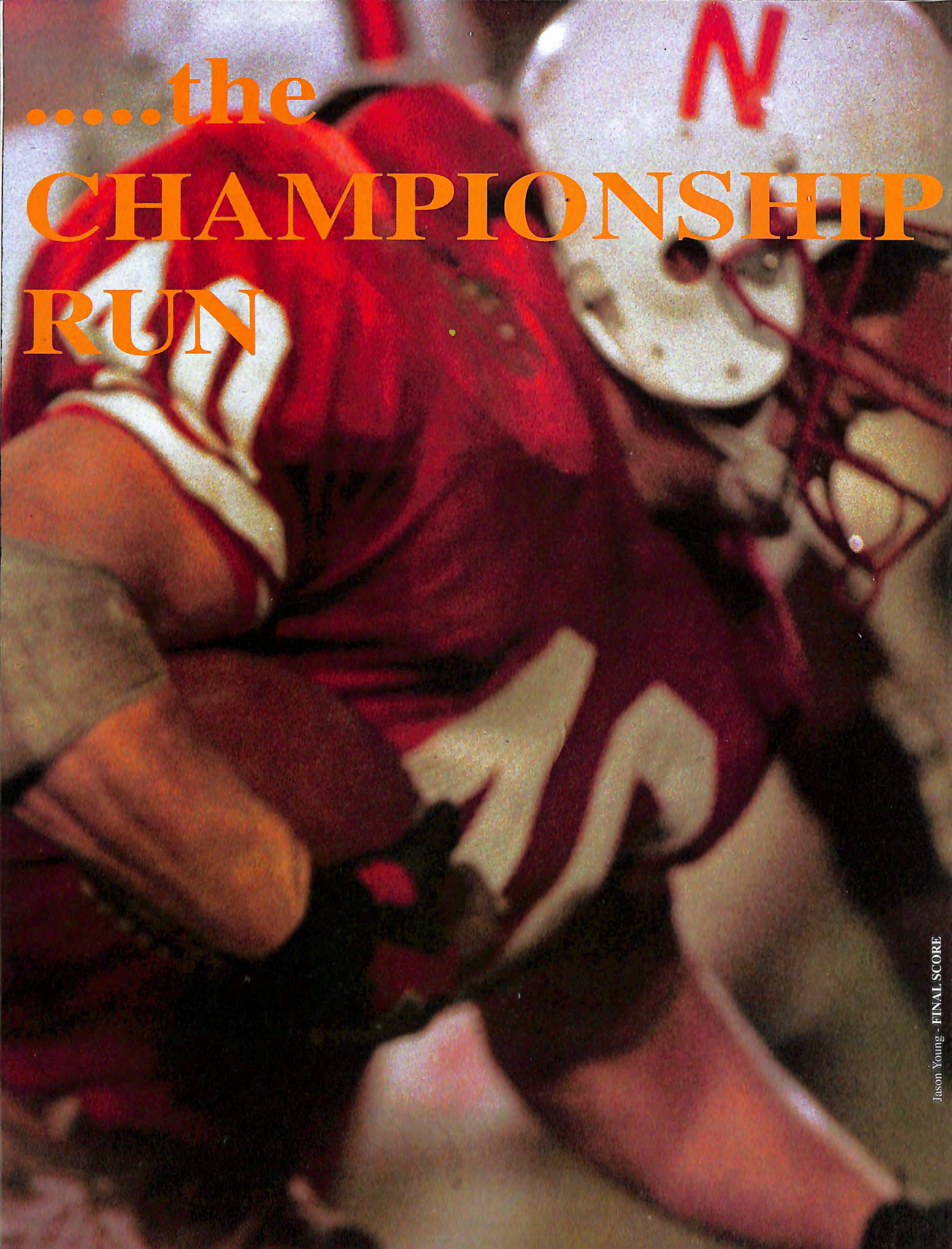
NEBRASKA

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PLAYERS



Jason Young - FINAL SCORE



.....the CHAMPIONSHIP RUN

We were somewhere in North Florida. It was 5:30 in the morning and I was staring at the ceiling of our van. The same scene kept replaying over and over again in my mind.

Turner rolling right and throwing the ball. The ball being tipped, bouncing off Jeff Smith's facemask and dropping into the South endzone, falling into the abyss of Miami's soon to be mystique.

We drove in silence. Only the sound of the car engine could be heard, but I couldn't hold it in any longer.

I yelled out at the top of my lungs, "I can't believe it."

The clock read 8:00 and counting at the Orange Bowl. The public address system had just announced that the entire nation would be joining us via NBC in 60 seconds. It could have been the announcement that sent the place into a frenzy, but all of the sudden, the already electric atmosphere saw the voltage being turned up even higher.

The National Anthem had just finished and both teams' fans begin to stand and scream. No words can perfectly describe what was about to unfold in Miami's historic stadium. An ear piercing roar erupted as the Hurricane team captains emerged from their corner of the field. From my perspective, all I could see was the white helmets with a green and orange 'U' bouncing up and down, lights reflecting off of them.

There I was, on the same field that so many big games had been played. All I could think about was that game 11 years earlier. That one game kept playing in my mind over and over.

I stood five feet from where Nebraska was supposed to exit, looking up into the eyes of 20,000 Husker fans. The Sea of Red had made the final leg of the journey. They had been there all season and now, there they were, standing in anticipation of Nebraska's entrance. As Miami's fans continued to stand and scream, a huge image appeared from behind the shadows of the Northwest corner of the stadium. He wore number 72. Zach Wiegert led the Husker captains out of the tunnel onto the field and the sea erupted.

Soon after the captains appeared, the Hurricanes exited through the thick cloud of fog, to the sound of chaos. The entire stadium was standing admiring the sight. Miami fans were rabid and loud. Nebraska fans stood in awe of

the sight. It was truly amazing. I paid special attention to the faces of Big Red fans. They stood silent, some had their mouths open, but most seemed ready to explode as they watched the Canes come onto the field. Only a handful of Nebraska fans noticed Tom Osborne leading Nebraska to the edge of the tunnel. Osborne had a different look to him. I've never seen such intensity on this man's face.

Suddenly, it happened. The music, oh that music. The low, horror-like music cut through the night like a Ginsu, sending every Nebraskan to their feet. How only 20,000 people could drown out 60,000 is beyond comprehension, but it happened. The mini-sea of red shook the rafters and the Huskers ran methodically onto the field. The look in the eyes of the players told the story. Intensity that can't be described, focused and determined beyond belief. All of the waiting was over and it was showtime.

From a pressbox high atop the playing field I watched every play as if it were the last. The chess match began to unfold. From the first drive it was obvious that Nebraska felt it could exploit the middle of Miami's defensive front. Tommie Frazier starting his first game since September was a bit rusty, missing the target of his first pass and being forced to use a timeout on the first possession. Nebraska went three and out.

Miami took over on their own 45 yardline and started to drive. James Stewart was getting 4 to 5 yards a carry on the Canes opening possession. Nebraska was in a man-to-man defense and Costa was picking them apart. As Miami approached the endzone, it self destructed with penalties. They settled for a 44-yard Dane Prewitt field goal, his longest of the season.

1st: Miami 3 NU 0

Nebraska's second possession started on their own 10-yard line. The Huskers pounded at Miami with Lawrence Phillips picking up most of the load. The offensive line began to establish itself as they moved the ball into Miami territory. But things came to a crashing stop when Carlos Jones picked off Frazier's pass on the Miami 3 yard line.

Miami's offense, pinned deep, began to operate like a well-oiled machine, moving the ball 97 yards in five plays, the last, a 35-yard touchdown pass to Trent Jones. The scoring drive took only 2:39. It was the longest drive

of the year for Miami and just like that, the Canes led 10-0. All of the bad memories of Orange Bowls past walked up and slapped us all in the face.

1st: Miami 10 NU 0

The second quarter saw the entrance of Brook Berringer. Berringer had no success on his first drive either and after a 15-yard run by Phillips, the Canes stiffened. Warren Sapp sacked Berringer for a 12-yard loss on third down and Nebraska was forced to punt.

Darin Erstad drove the Canes deep into their own territory forcing them to start on their own 10. That was the wake up call the Black-shirts were waiting for. Miami couldn't move the ball and was forced to punt.

After a poor punt, the Huskers took over at the Canes' 40-yard line. After runs of four and six yards by Phillips, a nine-yard reverse by Riley Washington and a one-yard run by Clinton Childs, Berringer hit Mark Gilman on a 19-yard touchdown pass. The Huskers were back in the game.

2nd: Miami 10 NU 7

Miami was about to get an up-close and personal look at the Nation's best defense. Troy Dumas sacked Costa for a five-yard loss. But the Miami quarterback brushed himself off and hit Chris T. Jones for 15 yards and a first down. Nebraska began to blitz and Miami's offense self-destructed. After two penalties and a dropped pass, Miami kicked it away.

Nebraska went three and out on its next series, with a near-catastrophic play. Berringer hit Gilman with a short pass. Before Gilman had control, he was hammered and lost the ball. Ruling in favor of the Huskers, the pass was deemed incomplete and Nebraska was able to punt.

Again, Erstad pinned Miami deep leaving them to work from their own 11. Miami was unable to do anything after a 21-yard run by Stewart. Miami punted and Nebraska took over with 3:05 left. Warren Sapp took over on the next possession and stopped the Huskers cold. Halftime.

Half: Miami 10 NU 7

Miami started the second half like the first, with a scoring drive. It took less than two minutes for Costa to hit Jonathan Harris on a 44-yard touchdown strike. The defensive momentum the Huskers took into the locker room was gone.

3rd: Miami 17 NU 7



C R U N C H !

Nebraska went three and out on its next series and another great punt by Erstad. Miami was again deep in its own territory. Adding on a personal foul and an illegal block, the Canes found themselves looking at a 2nd and 20 from their own four-yardline. The Blackshirts took over. Dwayne Harris grabbed Costa and ripped him down in the endzone for a safety. This was the first turning point of the game.

3rd: Miami 17 NU 9

The Huskers got the ball back after the safety on their own 25 with 11:29 left in the third. After one firstdown, Nebraska was shut down and had to kick. Both teams had the ball again but couldn't score. However, the Huskers began to mount an effective drive that lasted 10 plays, until Berringer fumbled a hand-off to Clinton Childs. Miami recovered.

In the fourth quarter, Nebraska's defense controlled Miami in every aspect of the game. Early in the quarter, after Nebraska forced the Canes to punt, Miami's long snap sailed over Prewitt's head and rolled towards the Hurricane goal line. The foot race between Prewitt and Nebraska's Barron Miles began. The outcome being obvious, Prewitt kicked the ball out of the endzone, which should have been ruled a safety. But Nebraska opted to take the penalty for illegally kicking the ball, gaining possession on the Miami four-yard line.

On first down, Nebraska ran play action, but Berringer couldn't find an open man and attempted to throw the ball out of the endzone. Instead of the play ending as a wasted Nebraska down, Miami's Earl Little made a spectacular interception and the Huskers were turned away. Miami thought it had the game.

But the record-breaking crowd of 81,753 was about to witness one of the greatest fourth quarter performances by any team in a championship game.

Nebraska took possession with 12:07 in the game. Frazier took the Nebraska Helm and in my notes, I marked down, 'what dreams are made of'. There was a feeling in the air that Nebraska would pull this game out. But on the first down of the possession, Warren Sapp made his presence known, stopping Frazier's option play for a loss.

But he bounced back and hit Abdul Muhammad for ten yards and a near first down. On third-and-short another Frazier option was stuffed and the Huskers went back to kick.

Erstad came through in the clutch,

pinning the Hurricanes at their four-yardline. Miami lost two yards first down. The Blackshirts were hungry and moving in for the kill. After one six-yard pass and another that fell incomplete, Miami punted.

The Huskers got the ball on the Hurricane 40. As they broke the huddle, Tommie Frazier walked up to the line and looked at the Hurricane defense.

Mariah Carey's "Hero" began playing in my head.

"It's a long road when you face the world alone"

Phillips led the Huskers on the ground with a workman like effort against the Canes.



Jason Young - FINAL SCORE

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Jason Young - FINAL SCORE

Chris T. Jones couldn't get the big play against the hard-hitting Husker secondary.

This was Tommie's chance to lead his team to the title.

On the first play of the drive, Nebraska ran an option and Lawrence Phillips made one of his greatest runs ever. Breaking four tackles, he burst down the field for 25 yards and was brought down at the 15, not more than 10 feet in front of me. There I was, face to face with the National Championship game.

On the next play, Nebraska ran another option, but while Miami watched Phillips, Frazier gave the ball to Cory Schlesinger and he bulldozed over the defense for a 15-yard touchdown. Nebraska had cut the lead to two points and the ultimate flashback was about to take place.

Gill takes the snap, rolls to his right.....

Frazier takes the snap, rolls to his right.....

Gill throws to Jeff Smith in the endzone.....

Frazier has Eric Alford in the back of the endzone.....

The ball is tipped and falls incomplete. No good!

Frazier fires a rocket to Alford and YES, he's got it!

Even though the plays were different, they looked the same in my mind. Or maybe I wanted so bad for Gill's pass to make it to Smith, that I decided it was the same play. Regardless, Nebraska had just tied the game at 17 and had all of the momentum.

4th: NU 17 Miami 17

Miami's next possession started at the

20, but they were overpowered by the Black-shirts. The once high and mighty big play Hurricane offense was now playing conservatively. The Huskers forced the Canes to punt and Nebraska took over at their own 41 with 6:28 to play in what was the most exciting game I've ever witnessed.

The "Pipeline" broke from the huddle, looking battered but strong. Frazier puts his hands under center and the much ridiculed Nebraska run-oriented offense did what it has done to so many. It hammered at Miami. Phillips was stopped for a loss of 1 on first down. Then a Frazier pass hit Reggie Baul for eight yards. On third down, as the Huskers came up to the line, the song replayed.

"Then a hero comes along with the strength to carry on."

Frazier took the snap and ran an op



Jason Young - FINAL SCORE

Frazier's 25-yard run on the game winning drive was a story book ending to a traumatic season.

tion to the right side, cut up field, broke four tackles and sprinted down field for 25 of the biggest yards of his career. Just like last year against Florida State, he wanted the ball and made the play. Next, Phillips crashed through the line for seven more and was stuffed for no gain on second down. Then the biggest third down of the season. Again, Nebraska runs option, laughing at the years of ridicule, the offensive line sprang forward. Frazier kept the ball and ran for six yards and a first down.

Nebraska fans are beside themselves, jumping up and down during the whole thing. The Miami "faithful" begin to leave the stadium. On the next down, Frazier gave to Schlesinger and got another Husker touchdown. The moment was upon us.

4th: NU 24 Miami 17

Miami started on its own 18, but they were looking into the eyes of a blood-thirsty defensive unit who very much remembered last year. First down, Costa hit Wimberly for only five yards and on the next play, Terry Connealy made the sack of his life, throwing Costa for an eight-yard loss.

Third and 13, Costa drops back to pass and is slammed by Dwayne Harris, then Donta Jones, then Connealy. It was fourth down and the National Championship was one play away. Costa dropped back and threw up a duck that was picked off by Kareem Moss and the Huskers had done it.

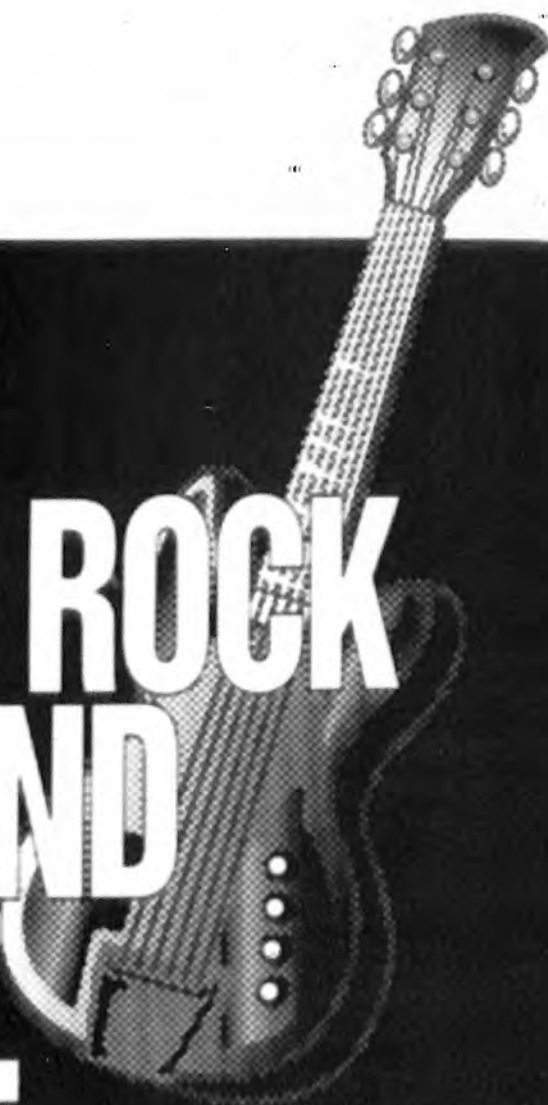
Nebraska had done what no other Tom Osborne team could. All of the great teams in the past had fallen short, but no one even mentioned it. It didn't matter. In fact, many of those

former players were there, rooting for the Huskers, celebrating the win, as one. Fans, players, coaches, and other staff all were one huge family celebrating its brightest moment. The monkey had been kicked off the Huskers back.

It's 5:30 in the morning and I'm staring at the ceiling of my Miami Airport Marriott Hotel room. Over and over, I'm replaying the pregame atmosphere, the big plays, the last two drives, the celebration and post-game interviews. I'm picturing the way the offensive and defensive lines looked as they came to the line on the final two possessions by either team. That was the heart and soul of this team. Those guys up front, on both sides were what championship football is all about.

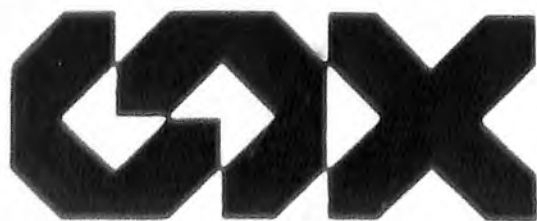
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High School



HOOPS

The 1994-95 boys and girls basketball season has been a great one so far. FINAL SCORE'S Tony Reinke has been in on all of the action. Our high school hoops section is full of team capsules, profiles, and great pictures. If it happens on the high school level, you can be sure that FINAL SCORE will be there.

All Photos by Jason Young-FINAL SCORE

BOYS METRO TEAM CAPSULES

As usual it has been an exciting season in the Metro, not to mention Class A. Who would have thought that Bellvue East would start 0-3 then become one of the top teams in the conference. Or who would have guessed that Burke, who started at 0-3, would defeat the seemingly invincible Creighton Prep Blue Jays twice within a two week span. It has also brought new players into the spotlight, like Joey James (Bellvue West), Doug Johnston (Millard South), and Calvin Strong (Omaha South).

But more importantly you, the fans, have kept attendance figures up. And that has shown that high school basketball is important to Nebraskans. As with the football season, Nebraska has some of the best young talent in the nation.

Here is a look at all 18 Metro teams because it is very important to us that even teams who are struggling get coverage. You never know when a 0-6 team could bounce back to win state.

MILLARD SOUTH

Coming into the year the Indians looked to be another 9-10 team like last year. They lost David Kelley and Brian Medaris, two of the best forwards in the Metro. But that

wasn't all, senior forward Brian Jones was sidelined the first half of the season due to a broken leg from football. But it has been the play of his brother, sophomore Tim Jones (41.7 fg %), along with junior Doug Johnston (9.2 ppg, 6.2 reb pg), and senior Mark Christensen (10.3 ppg, 62.1 fg %) who have anchored the inside for head coach Larry Ribble's team.

Another huge key has been the play of senior Jon Paul Schieber. He has been instrumental in the Indians otherwise dreary outside game. The 6' 2" senior is 21-48 (43.8%) from downtown and provided the firepower in big victories against Millard North, Papillion, Bryan, and Bellvue East. Along with his 13.0 points per game, he has added 26 assists.

Overall the Indians look to be a very good team the second half of the season. Although they dropped their first two of three they went on a five game winning streak and placed second in the Holiday Tournament to Burke.

Key games down the stretch: Omaha South, Lincoln Southeast, Burke, and Lincoln Northeast.

OMAHA CENTRAL

Millard South, Burke, and Central have one thing in common- they are all serious contenders for state who started off slowly. The Eagles lost to Lincoln East in their second game of the year but turned things around, winning four of their last five games.

One of the biggest keys to their success has been the play of 6' 7" center, Donnie Johnson. Star Eddie Smith graduated last year after a season that saw him average 25.5 points per game there was a lot of offensive slack to take up for Johnson this year. And he has not disappointed anyone. The senior is averaging 16.7 points per game. But more importantly he has been as consistent as anyone in the metro conference. The most points he has scored in any given game is 22 and the fewest is 14.

Other players to watch are forwards Kyle Schultz and Khareth Bartee.

Key games down the stretch: Bellvue East, Papio, Burke, Millard South, and Omaha South.

CREIGHTON PREP

In their quest for another state championship this team has run into some road blocks. One example is the Burke Bulldogs, the Blue Jays nemesis this season. But it will take more than one team to stop this very talented team (see story). Prep may have the best inside combination in the state with T.J. Pugh and Tim Ridder. The two have combined for some very impressive numbers this season including performances of 43 (Burke Dec. 17), 40 (Millard

South Dec. 9), and 35 points (Burke Dec. 30).

One concern for the Junior Jays is their guards. Although they have had impressive games from Scott Bragg, Vince Pietro, and Steve Sokol they still need one of them to step up like Othello Meadows did for them last year.

Overall this team will most likely be playing at Devaney come mid-March and they should dominate the second half of their season.

Key games down the stretch: Bellvue East, Millard South, Papio, Burke, and Central.

RALSTON

Ralston started off quickly this year. Coach Terry Lantz and Co. defeated Millard South on opening day and before they knew it they were 5-0. But then came the Metro Holiday Tournament. After a second round defeat they lost to Bellvue East 76-68 but watch out for this squad.

A rather easy schedule and the play of forward Dusty Dubbs and guard Ryan Bojanski should carry this team to a very impressive record. Bojanski scored a season high 22 points against MS.

Key games down the stretch: Central, Omaha South, Bryan, and Bellvue East.

BELLVUE WEST

Head coach Lanny Richards squad shot out to a very hot 3-0 start. But their fun was spoiled by Bellvue West on Dec. 20. Although they did go into the Metro Holiday Tournament as a number-two seed, they would lose to Millard South in the second round after a 88-48 demolishing of CB Thomas Jefferson.

Senior Joey James has lived up to his preseason expectations. The 6-3 guard scored 38 points on opening day and added 35 against Lincoln Southeast on Dec. 10.

Key games down the stretch: Grand Island and Creighton Prep.

OMAHA BURKE

After a 0-3 start the Bulldogs became a completely different team. A five game winning streak and the excellent play of guards Alvin Mitchell (see story) and Andre Williams have propelled this team out of the 'rest' and into the 'best.' The two combined for 42 points in Burke's 67-55 upset of Creighton Prep on Dec. 30.

Burke went into the Metro Holiday Tournament as a fourth seed and won all four games en route to a 54-45 championship over another up-and-coming team, Millard South.

The next eight games will show what this team is really made of.

Key games down the stretch: Lin-



Creighton Prep's Tim Ridder along with Pugh give the Junior Jays one of the best frontcourts in the state.

coln Southeast, Central, Omaha South, and Millard South.

BELLVUE EAST

What happened to this team? After dropping their first three games which included Creighton Prep and Lincoln Northeast, the Chieftains went 5-1. Victories include their cross-town rivals from Bellvue West and a 63-59 win on Dec. 31 over Creighton Prep in the Metro Holiday Tournament.

Two guards have been instrumental in the teams success. Ken Chatmon and Brian Crockett along with forward Buddy Carlyle anchor this team.

Key games down the stretch: Papillion, Central, and Millard North.

OMAHA GROSS

For head coach Mike Dempsey this is looking to be another 8-8 season. But this young team did knock off Millard North on Dec. 2, 68-56. The biggest reason for that upset as well as the success of the team so far has been the play D.J. DeLeon-Thompson. The 6' 3" junior has scored in double figures six times this year.

Like many other metro teams, the second half of the season will be a very difficult one for the Cougars.

Key games down the stretch: Omaha South, Bellvue East, Benson, and Papio.

OMAHA WESTSIDE

The Warriors shot out to a 3-0 start including a 62-59 victory against Burke on Dec. 9. But then something went wrong. They lost three games, against Millard South, Bellvue East, and Fremont. Guard Tony Schrager leads this offense, the 6' senior has scored in double figures four times including 20 points against Omaha North. Westside may have the most difficult schedule of all Metro teams.

Key games down the stretch: Bellvue West, Creighton Prep, Lincoln Northeast, Central, and Millard North.

OMAHA BENSON

It has been a rather shaky start for the Runnin' Bunnies. Terry Shelsta's club has been dominated by big men like Papio's Kevin Mungin, which they lost to twice. One bright spot for Benson has been their strength at the guard position. Both Joe Jones and Tory Veland have proven that they can run the offense. Inside, forwards Paul Shelsta, Todd Boyd, and Javon Howard have all had big games.

Coach Shelsta knew that coming into the season that height would be a big problem for his team. In fact Howard is the only Bunny over 6' 3".

Key games down the stretch: Millard North, Bellvue West, and Burke.

COUNCIL BLUFFS ABRAHAM LINCOLN

After a 1-19 record last year this team is desperate for a winning season, and they are in line to do just that. They have defeated Omaha South, South Sioux City East, Omaha Bryan and Ralston. They have three players that area fans should keep their eyes on. Forwards P.J. Anderson, Donny Kraner, and center Brandon Doles have all played big rolls for this team so far.

This team has a very tough schedule ahead.

Key games down the stretch: Creighton Prep, Millard North, Bellvue West, and Bellvue East.



Calvin Strong of Omaha South has been one of the state's biggest surprises.

OMAHA SOUTH

It has not been a landmark season for coach Joe Neuberger. After a 1-3 start his team defeated Northwest 76-59, but lost their first round game in the Metro Holiday Tournament.

The biggest key in this teams success the rest of the way will be the play of guard Calvin Strong. He is capable of scoring 40 points in a game, scored 38 against Benson, and leads his team in almost every offensive category.

Key games down the stretch: Millard North, Papio, Millard South, Burke and Central.

OMAHA BRYAN

Coming off a 13-7 record last year Tim Cannon's team has been suffering. After a 2-1 start they lost to Benson, Millard South, and Abe Lincoln. One bright spot has been Lee Wisniewski. The 6' 2" senior has scored 15 points or more on three separate occasions. Other players to watch are guards Bob Jackson and Vince Harrison.

The second half of the season will not be forgiving for the Bears.

Key games down the stretch: Millard South, Papio, Burke, Ralston, Bellvue West, and Omaha South.

MILLARD NORTH

This season hasn't gone the way that head coach Gerald Johnette wanted it to. After losing Jarod Holmes, a 6' 6" forward who contributed 11.7 points per game, to graduation it has been senior Greg Deines who picked up the offensive slack. He scored 30 points in a heart breaking loss to Millard South on Dec. 3.

The Mustangs lost their first four games of the season before upsetting Burke 57-54. They also defeated Central in the opening round at the Metro Holiday Tournament, but lost to Burke in overtime on Dec. 29.

Key games down the stretch: Omaha South, Bellvue East, Creighton Prep, Papio, and Lincoln Northeast.

OMAHA NORTH

For the Vikings it has been a season to forget. After four losses to start the season off they defeated Omaha South 58-55 on Dec. 9, but they lost their next three.

Two bright spots for North has been the play of guard Claudis Foxworth and forward Larry Sauls. Sauls, a 6' 5" senior, scored 20 points in a shoot-out against Norfolk on Jan. 3. The Panthers won by a season-high score of 108-71.

Unfortunately for the Vikings it will be an even longer season.

Key games down the stretch: Papio, Burke, Millard South, and Creighton Prep.

PAPILLION/LaVISTA

For Kevin Albers club it has been a roller coaster season, and their record doesn't tell the whole story. Those four losses were against Lincoln Northeast, Millard South, and Creighton Prep twice.

Once again forward/center Kevin Mungin is the dominating force behind the Monarch's offense. The 6' 7" senior is averaging 15.3 points per game including a 19-point performance against Northwest on opening day. Other keys down the stretch will be the play of guards Andre Watts and Mitch Webb, and forward Marques Rollins.

Key games down the stretch: Bellvue East, Omaha South, Central, and Millard North.

GIRLS METRO TEAM CAPSULES

To this point in the season there have been some tremendous matchups not only between teams like Bryan and Millard South but between players like Renee Saunders (Marian) and Jennifer Goetz (North). But it's just a sample of what is to come during the last stretch of the regular season, Metro Tournament, and State. Remember, **FINAL SCORE** will be their every step of the way.

So look for your favorite team and enjoy.

MILLARD SOUTH

Rich Olson's team was ranked second in the state in our 02 TV/FINAL SCORE pre-season poll and they have lived up to those expectations (see story). And they have rolled past some impressive opponents which include Millard North, Marian, Abe Lincoln, and Bryan.

Overall this team may have the best depth in the state. Seniors Sarah Determan, Jacquie Neuhaus, Megan Proplesch, Kim Marsicek, and Robin Spencer. Proplesch, a 6'

senior forward, has provided the firepower for this team. She has scored in double figures five times, including a 21 point performance in the Indians 50-43 victory over their rivals from Millard North. Another two players who have had considerable success this year have been juniors Nicki Odermatt and Jessica Jeseritz.

The Indians won the Metro Holiday Tournament and may have the toughest schedule in all of class A. They will most likely make an appearance at the Devaney Sports Center when state rolls around.

Key games down the stretch: Bryan, Lincoln Southeast, North; Lincoln High, and Burke.

COUNCIL BLUFFS ABE LINCOLN

For Dave Brown his team is on a roll. They finished third at the Metro Holiday Tournament just behind Millard South and Bryan. One of the biggest reasons for the teams success has been the play of 6' 3" center Tonia Tauke. The junior cored 21 against Omaha South and South Sioux City and added 17 against Omaha South again. But her scoring ability is just half of her success. Defensively she may be the best center in the state. That was never more evident than in the Lady Lynx 54-51 double overtime win against Millard North. She had big blocks as time ran out in regulation as well as after the first overtime.

But she is one of three standouts that are on this team. Keri Feilen, a 5' 7" guard, and Sara Borman, a 5' 10" forward, have had some big offensive games.

Key games down the stretch: Millard North and Marian.

OMAHA BRYAN

After a 20-3 team last year that included no seniors it is no surprise that the Bears are one of the best teams in the state. In fact, they won their first six games which included teams like Abe Lincoln, Ralston, Burke, and Marian. So far the only team to stop John Green's team has been the Millard South Indians.

Led by junior Reshea Bristol, the 'Magic Johnson' of girls basketball, this is a very solid basketball team. Bristol averages 13.5 points per game but may be known better for her around-the-back, between-the-legs, no-look passes that creates a lot of points for her teammates. One of those players is Niokia Toussaint. Although she is just a sophomore, she is averaging 19 points-per-game and has shot 51.7% from the field.

The Toussaint/Bristol combo may be the best in the state and will definitely be team-

mates to watch next year. But don't think that this is a one-dimensional team. They have a junior who averages almost 10 points per game (Jana Hunter) and a senior that grabs 5.25 rebounds per game (Audria Mumphy).

Key games down the stretch: Millard South and Burke.

OMAHA NORTH

Coming into the season head coach Tom Lee was worried that the Vikings wouldn't have a good shooting guard. And Andrea Sims, a 5' 8" junior, stepped up to fill that void. And she has emerged as one of the best guards in the state. She is averaging 13.5 points per game and has combined with Jennifer Goetz to make up one of the best combinations the school has ever produced. Goetz, a 5' 10" senior center, is averaging 18.8 points per games and has had some huge games including 27 points against Benson and 19 against Westside.

Key games down the stretch: Burke, Lincoln High, Millard South, and Marian.

BELLVUE WEST

After a year that saw the team fall to 7-12, a winning season will be very well appreciated by coach Jim Jennings and his club. Scoring wise, this team is very balanced. Juniors Nikki Henk and Megan Porter along with sophomore Jamie Boardman have carried this team so far. But this teams mission is not over and have a tough schedule ahead of them.

Key games down the stretch: Abe Lincoln, Bryan, and Marian.

OMAHA MARIAN

This is another team that is on a roll. Although they have a difficult schedule they have defeated teams like Lincoln High and Omaha North but coach Jim Miller's team has lost to some very impressive teams also, like Millard South, Bryan, and CB Abe Lincoln. Once again it is Renee Saunders who has taken up a majority of the offensive slack this year for the Crusaders. She is averaging 13.3 points per game including a 16-point game against Bryan on Dec. 30 in which she added 13 rebounds and scored another 13 points in the Crusaders' 75-21 rout of Omaha Central.

Five-foot-ten-inch senior Becky Mancuso has also been instrumental in Marian's success. She is the second leading scorer on the team and scored 19 points on Dec. 29 in their victory over Omaha North.

Key games down the stretch: Millard North, CB Abe Lincoln, and Omaha North.

MILLARD NORTH

For the Mustangs it was a slow start but they have become one of the best Metro



Niokia Toussaint has been one of the main reasons for the Lady Bears emergence as a contender.

teams. After an opening day victory over Gross, Millard North took on and lost to the two best teams in the state- Millard South and Lincoln Southeast. Then they went on a four game winning streak before losing to CB Abe Lincoln in the third round of the Metro Holiday Tournament.

A big reason for the teams success has been the talent of Kate Kerrigan. The 5' 5" senior averages around 10 points per game with a 14 point performance against Burke on Dec. 16. She, along with guards Kelley Lindsey and Erin Officer, will be detrimental in the team's success the rest of the season.

Key games down the stretch: CB Abe Lincoln and Marian.

OMAHA BURKE

A difficult schedule mixed with high expectations equals a rocky start for Larry Seitz's team. Millard North and Bryan are the only two teams to stop them and the Lady Bulldogs have a very difficult schedule ahead of them. One of the bright spots on this team has been the play of junior Val Cook. The 5' 8" junior is averaging 17.6 points per game including a 25-point game against Benson on Dec. 27 at the Metro Holiday Tournament.

Another big key has been the play of 6' 1" sophomore Erin Elliott. The center is averaging 7.8 points per game but her biggest contribution has been her rebounds. A category that she averages a phenomenal 10 per game. Overall this will be a solid team down the stretch. They have height, leadership, and the talent to make it to the state tournament.

Key games down the stretch: Lincoln Southeast, Bryan, and Millard South.

OMAHA GROSS

Compared to last years 17-6 record, this could be a long season for the Cougars. One big reason for those three wins has been the play of 5' 10" forward Tina Janovich. She scored in double figures five times including a 15 point performance against Northwest.

Key games down the stretch: Ralston and Papillion.

OMAHA BENSON

The Bunnies are runnin' out of time if they want a serious shot at the state tournament. The season got out to a slow start but Benson has played some impressive opponents. Those teams include North, Papio, Bryan, and Burke. But they have defeated Bellvue East and Central twice. But their remaining schedule is much more difficult than the first half.

Big keys for their success so far is the play of freshmen Lindsey Schulz, Stacia Ward, and junior Monique Robinson.

Key games down the stretch: Abe Lincoln, Lincoln High, and Burke.

OMAHA NORTHWEST

Last year, coach Francis Szynskie's team won just three games. Between Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 of this year they won three games. But for the Huskies it has still been a rather frustrating season. However, the team did win the Bellvue East Invitational with victories against Ralston and Duchesne. The keys so far during the season have been the play of 5' 6" forward Lindsay Peterson, 5' 5" guard Lora Ullerich, and 5' 9" center Michele Milan.

Key games down the stretch: Burke, CB Abe Lincoln, Bryan, and Omaha North.

PAPILLION/LaVISTA

Although this is relatively a young club they are trying to improve on last years 8-



Millard South senior Jacquie Neuhaus is one of the many who contributes to this years Indian team.

12 record. The Monarchs have defeated Northwest, Benson, and Gross and in the process one player has emerged. Her name is Jackie Erdkamp, a 5' 7" junior forward, and she has become the inspiration of the team. She is averaging 9.4 points per game including a team-high 13 points against Northwest on opening day.

Key games down the stretch: Omaha North, Bryan, and Millard North.

RALSTON

After a 0-3 start the Rams won two straight games but it would be the only two to this point in the season. Those opponents were Bellvue East and Central, and thanks to Jenelle Negrete this team may be on track to better their 5-16 record from last year. Negrete, a 5-3 senior, scored a team-high 11 points against North-

west.

Key game down the stretch: Bryan.

OMAHA SOUTH

This season has not gone the way that head coach Kirk McLaughlin wanted. In fact it was a 48-46 victory over the 0-7 Bellvue East Chieftains on Dec. 29 that has highlighted their season. Player wise, junior Medina Craft has led the way. She scored a team-high 17 points against Bellvue East.

Key games down the stretch: Millard North, Millard South, Burke, and Bryan.

OMAHA WESTSIDE

Last year the Warriors didn't win any games. But this year is different. Head coach Curt Peterson took over and on Dec. 27 they beat CB Thomas Jefferson 43-28. Although they have a very tough schedule the team plays with a lot of heart and determination.

One player in particular caught my eye as time ran out in their 63-24 loss to Bryan on opening day, her name was Steph Dixon. She may not put up big numbers but the 5' 3" guard played with more heart than most players in the state and could teach some "superstars" about being a team player. She knows how to run an offense and may be in the running for the first ever All-FINAL SCORE team.

Key upcoming games: Marian and Millard North.

OMAHA CENTRAL

The season got off to a good start but after their 35-34 victory over CB Tee Jay on opening day it has been all downhill. A bright spot for the Eagles has been the play of junior guard Nikki Hollingsworth. She scored 19 points in a 63-43 loss against Lincoln East.

Key games down the stretch: Ralston, Papio, Burke, and Millard South.

COUNCIL BLUFFS THOMAS JEFFERSON

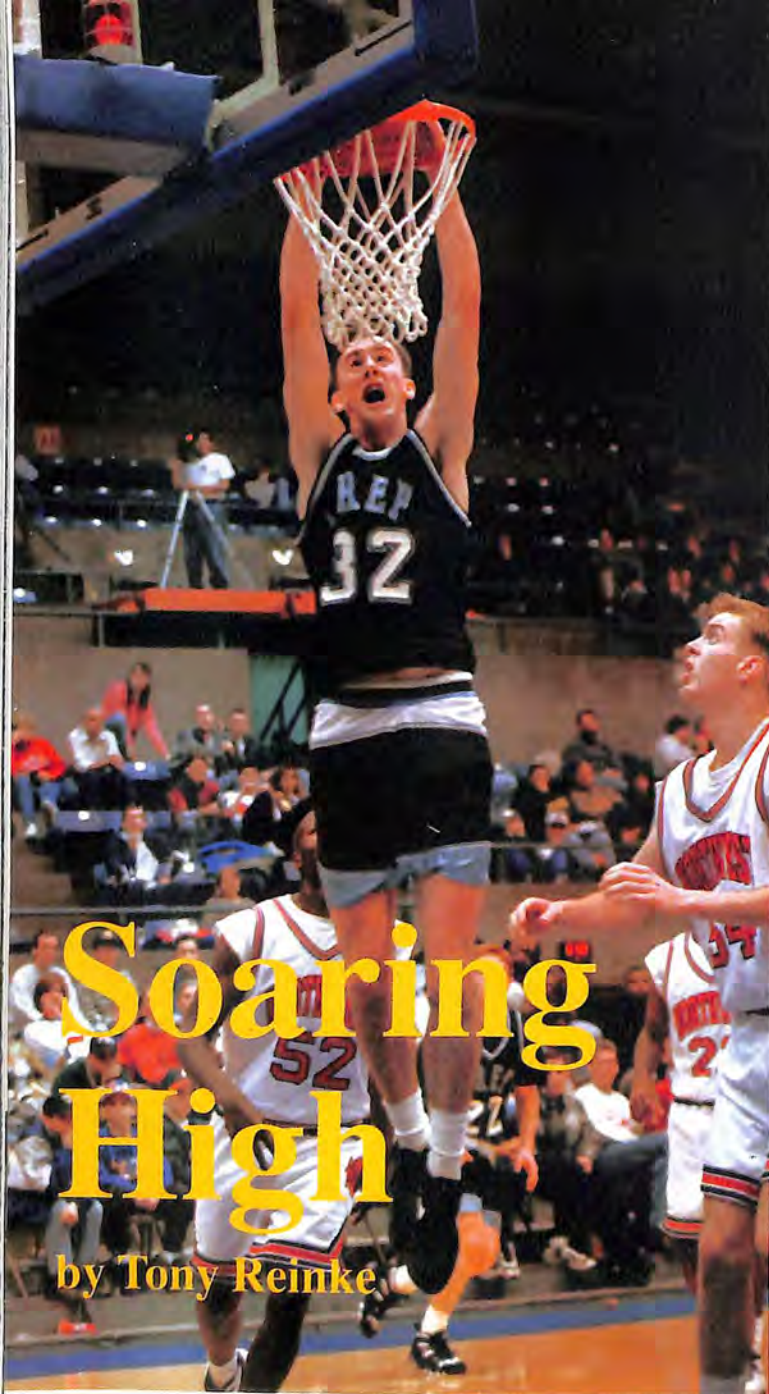
For head coaches Jack French and Kirk Madsen it has been a season to forget. But there has been two bright spots on this team. Guards Marti Hensley and Debi Midkiff have provided a strong offensive combo. The two combined for 23 points against Gross in a 47-39 loss.

Key games down the stretch: Abe Lincoln, Millard South, and Bryan.

BELLVUE EAST

Coming off of a 15-7 record head coach Scott Jensen has had a rather disappointing season. Although his team has been faced with a difficult schedule so far it will only get tougher as the second half of the season unfolds. One bright spot for the team has been the play of senior Lori Henn who has scored in double figures three times.

Key games down the stretch: Papio and Abe Lincoln.



Soaring High

by Tony Reinke

From the moment you enter Creighton Prep's basketball arena, an aura of tradition surrounds you. Walking across the multi-shaded wooden floor, you can hear the creaks of the Blue Jays past. And as you reach the far end of the court, an open door leads you down to a flight of stairs. At the base of those stairs, in the cool damp weight room, sits the latest head coach of Creighton Prep's boys basketball program, Scott Hawk.

Hawk, 38, has been the head coach of this team for just two years. The graduate from Southwest Missouri State has had a successful stay thus far. He has amassed 29 victories, just 3 defeats, and has won Prep's 10th state championship in his only full season. Now, he leads Prep's quest to become the first team to repeat since Millard South in 1988-89.

Parallel to the weight room is the Blue Jay lockerroom. In it stands two of the best athletes the school has ever produced. As the leader in the latest chapter of the school's basketball tradition, stands 6' 9" senior, T.J. Pugh. To say that Pugh is the best high school basketball player this state has ever produced would not be an over statement. He can shoot, run the floor, and is very talented on the defensive end. In fact, Pugh was averaging 26.2 points per game after the first nine games of the season including a 40-point performance against Bellvue East on opening day in the Junior Jays 85-65 victory.

"In high school basketball you can legitimately say that he can play all three positions and be one of the best in the state at every position," Hawk said. "Defensively he can take a tough inside match-up or a shooter. T.J. can do a lot of things."

"We feed off of T.J. all the time," senior center Tim Ridder said. "Being 6-9 and

being able to handle the ball as well as able to shoot the ball is amazing. He creates the offense for us."

Shortly before the season started Pugh signed a letter of intent with the Kansas Jayhawks.

"I really liked the coaches and players they had down there. The academics were also a big part but so was their basketball tradition."

The third link to their state championship last year as well as their success this season, is Ridder, a 6' 8" 285-pound senior. For his size his play has been impressive. After missing the first game of the year due to a football recruiting trip to Notre Dame, he has contributed almost 10 points per game and has been a big key for the success of Pugh's inside game.

"He brings a tremendous amount of

size," Pugh said. "He weighs 285-290 pounds and he is mobile; he can move. Anytime you have a guy like that it is a big asset."

Hawk agrees. "People have a misperception of big kids in high school not being athletic. For his size he can move, shoot, and he is a very intelligent player. I feel that if he would have concentrated solely on basketball at some point in his career that he would be a very good division-I player."

But for Ridder it was football that he excels in most, and on December 17, he signed a letter of intent with Notre Dame.

The Blue Jays did lose a great player from last year in Othello Meadows due to graduation.

"That loss hurt us in more ways than I could probably count," Hawk said. "Offensively last year if things broke down, as they will some nights, we could give him the ball. He could take a big defensive match-up on a quick kid and handle it on a given night. He was a phenomenal basketball player."

Other losses include Erik Lauristen, Pat Brennan, Jim Esch, Ben Fogarty, Tom Chapman, and Kyle Peterson.

But Hawk is quick to point out that any pressure put on his team is irrelevant.

"We don't have a problem with expectations because it is someone else's opinion. Our emphasis to them is that if your life can be dictated by someone else's opinion, then you have got some problems outside of basketball that need to be worked out."

Special thanks to Scott Hawk, T.J. Pugh, and Tim Ridder for their time. And good luck in there quest to repeat.

Coach Scott Hawk has been nothing but pleased with the play of Kansas bound Pugh (left).



The scene was out of a movie. Time running out and the home team down 45-41 against one of the most talented teams in the state, Creighton Prep. The Burke Bulldogs were 0-3, seemingly destined to become another highly ranked preseason fluke. But then along came a 6-foot 146-pound point guard. A skinny kid with baggy shorts and a cut-off T-shirt under his jersey; it was Alvin Mitchell.

With 6:59 left in the game, he hit a jumper and was fouled to tie the game at 45, sending the Burke student section into a frenzy. But he wasn't done. After making the free throw, he hit three consecutive three-pointers in a four minute span and secured the upset of the 4-0, second ranked Junior Jays.

That was just one of the many examples of how Alvin Mitchell takes over a game. But his story begins long before this season; even before he came to Burke High.

"To be honest I felt that I would have a pretty good chance of becoming a college division-I player before I came here," Mitchell said. "But it wasn't so much picking it up on the basketball end, but on the academic end."

Now that his scholastic performance has been accomplished, his basketball skills are ready to carry him to the next level. Although he had offers from many prominent basketball schools like Temple, Syracuse, and California, he chose to stay home and attend Nebraska.

"My family influenced my decision the most," he said. "I had a choice to go to those colleges but I knew that if I went out of state that my family wouldn't get to see me play, so I chose Nebraska."

And a very good choice it was. There are already seven guards who are sophomores or younger currently attending the three out-of-state colleges interested in Mitchell. But Nebraska doesn't have any. In fact Nebraska guards Jaron Boone, Jason Glock, Erick Strickland, and Tom Wald are all juniors, leaving Mitchell as the only signed guard the Huskers will have for the 1996-97 season.

So what does Mitchell possess that attracted so much attention? According to Burke head coach Gary Graner it is his tremendous ability to see the whole court.

"He has great sense of the game and an all-around court sense, not to mention his great pair of hands."

But don't forget his excellent speed, especially on defense.

"He has tremendous quickness," Graner said. "You saw it against Prep. When he stepped up and took people on head-to-head. That was a big reason for our comeback."

Mitchell's strong-hold is his family. Instead of looking up to Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, or other athletes, he looks up to his father, the Rev. Alvin Mitchell Sr.

"He showed me how to be calm," Mitchell said. "Him being a reverend teaches

me a lot, like looking to the outcome of the future of my life."

For Mitchell and his team, the season got off to a disappointing 0-3 start. He was forced to watch Burke's 81-77 loss to Bellevue West opening day from the bench due to a cut on his left hand.

"It was tough," he said. "It was tough to watch that game from the bench knowing that I could have helped down the stretch."

He returned against the Westside Warriors and scored 15 points but shot just .333 from the field as the Bulldogs fell again.

"Going into the game against Westside I really thought that I had rushed my return and I was playing at about 50%," he said.

He rebounded against Millard North the next night, scoring 24 points, but Burke lost again. It wasn't until he scored 28 points against Prep that his hand had fully healed and the Bulldogs could finally put a 'W' in their record. But Burke wasn't done. They continued playing well

and won five straight games and picked up a Metro Holiday Tournament championship on the way.

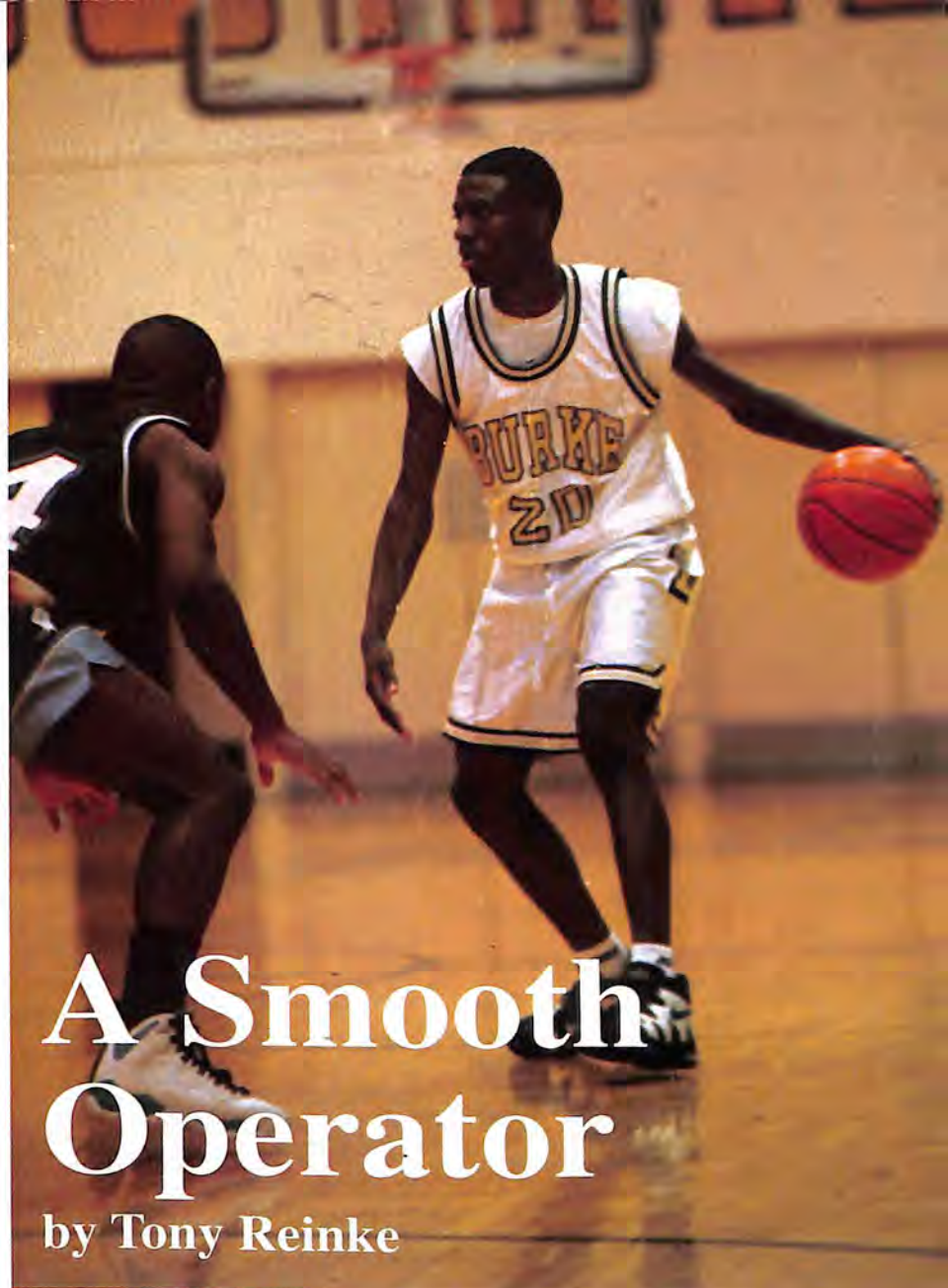
Mitchell lifted some pressure off his shoulders by signing with Nebraska before the season started.

"Since I signed early I don't have to prove to college scouts that Alvin Mitchell is a division-I player," he said. "I can play within the team."

And that is a big reason for the Bulldogs success to this point in the season.

"Alvin is the type of player that creates a lot of things for us," Graner said. "When he gets penetration he can pull-up and get the short jumper, he can finish off the drive, he can dish to people. He does a lot of good things."

Special thanks to Gary Graner and Alvin Mitchell for taking time out of their schedules to talk to me.



A Smooth Operator

by Tony Reinke



On The War Path

by Tony Reinke

Basketball tradition at Millard South runs deep. But it is far more extensive than just the boys. In fact, girls basketball has been better recognized the past two seasons with Millard South yielding one of the best teams in the state. This year's Indians are a very special group with nearly their entire team returning from last year's 18-5 squad. But according to head coach Rick Olson, don't dwell on last year too much because not only are they 5-0, but he says they are better than last year.

"Defensively we are considerably ahead of where we were last year," he said. "Offensively we are about the same."

The lone starter the Indians have lost from last year was Beth Wilkinson, a 5'9" guard who ran the offense and averaged 9.1 points and 3.2 rebounds per game.

Stepping in and picking up that slack is senior Sarah Determan. Although she doesn't have the offensive firepower of Wilkinson she still has the ball handling skills and leadership

that have been key in close games.

But those close games have been few-and-far between. In fact the Indians rolled over Ralston on opening day 71-11 and then beat the then 6th-ranked Millard North Mustangs 50-43 in overtime. Before they knew it they were 10-0 but more importantly they are shaping up to be the best looking teams in the Metro Conference.

A big reason for that is a 6' transfer from Millard North named Megan Proplesch. The senior forward is averaging 10.8 points per game and according to head coach Rich Olson she is a big part of their success.

"She is very aggressive on offense," he said.

"Megan can do things on her own which is something that the rest of us aren't real adept to. She can do individual things offensively. Defensively she makes the big play. The big block, the big rebound, things like that. She is a big game athlete."

That was evident by her 21 points in the Indians 50-43 win over cross-town rival Millard North.

But Proplesch is only one of three power forward/guards that have been instrumental to their success. Seniors Jacquie Neuhaus and Robin Spencer have both provided scoring and big plays at crunch time. Example; Spencer blocked a shot late in the Marian game fueling the Indians victory against the then 4th-ranked Crusaders which may prove to be one of their biggest plays this season.

Neuhaus is now the second leading scorer for Millard South averaging 8.2 points per game.

"Jacquie is a very credible person. Her opinion counts," he said. "And she is a very talented and consistent shooter."

Other key players on the team include senior Kim Marsicek and sophomores Nicki Odermatt and Jessies Jeseritz.

And if you believe the cliché that athletes don't produce in the classroom, just look at the Indians. Last year the starters, which include four returning players this year, maintained close to a 4.0 GPA.

"That shows that sometimes they are smarter than I am," Olson said laughingly. "The smart kids are real easy to coach. They see the logic behind everything. That's not to say that the kids with lower GPAs don't, but it seems that the smarter girls get things quicker."

Whatever the formula, it is has been working so far for the Indians. And remember mark your calendar for January 31. Lincoln Southeast at Millard South. The girls basketball showdown of the year.

Special thanks to Rich Olson for his time and

Millard South has been aided by tremendous depth all season long. They utilize 5 seniors, 3 juniors, 5 sophomores and 1 freshman.



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AK-SAR-BEN Coliseum

Tickets Available at Aksarben

444-1888



1995 Orange Bowl Pictorial

all photos by Jason Young-FINAL SCORE

O F F E N S E



As the game came down to the closing minutes, Nebraska's "Pipeline" completely dominated the line of scrimmage. (above) Tommie Frazier calls a play on the winning drive.



Quarterback Controversy? Not quite!

Both Berringer and Frazier contributed to the National Championship game. (above left) Berringer looks for an open receiver in the third quarter, while Frazier (above right) prepares to hit Eric Alford on the fourth quarter two-point conversion.



Brook Berringer #18

Tommie Frazier #15



THE FINAL DRIVE

DEFENSE



Crunch Time!

The Blackshirts proved in the Orange Bowl that they were the best defense in the country, holding Miami to negative yards in the fourth quarter. (above) The defense prepares for the last heroic stand.



A Blackshirt Cometh

Troy Dumas closes in on Frank Costa, who has no idea what is lurking behind him.



Kareem Moss closes in on Miami's Jones.



SACK

AFTER



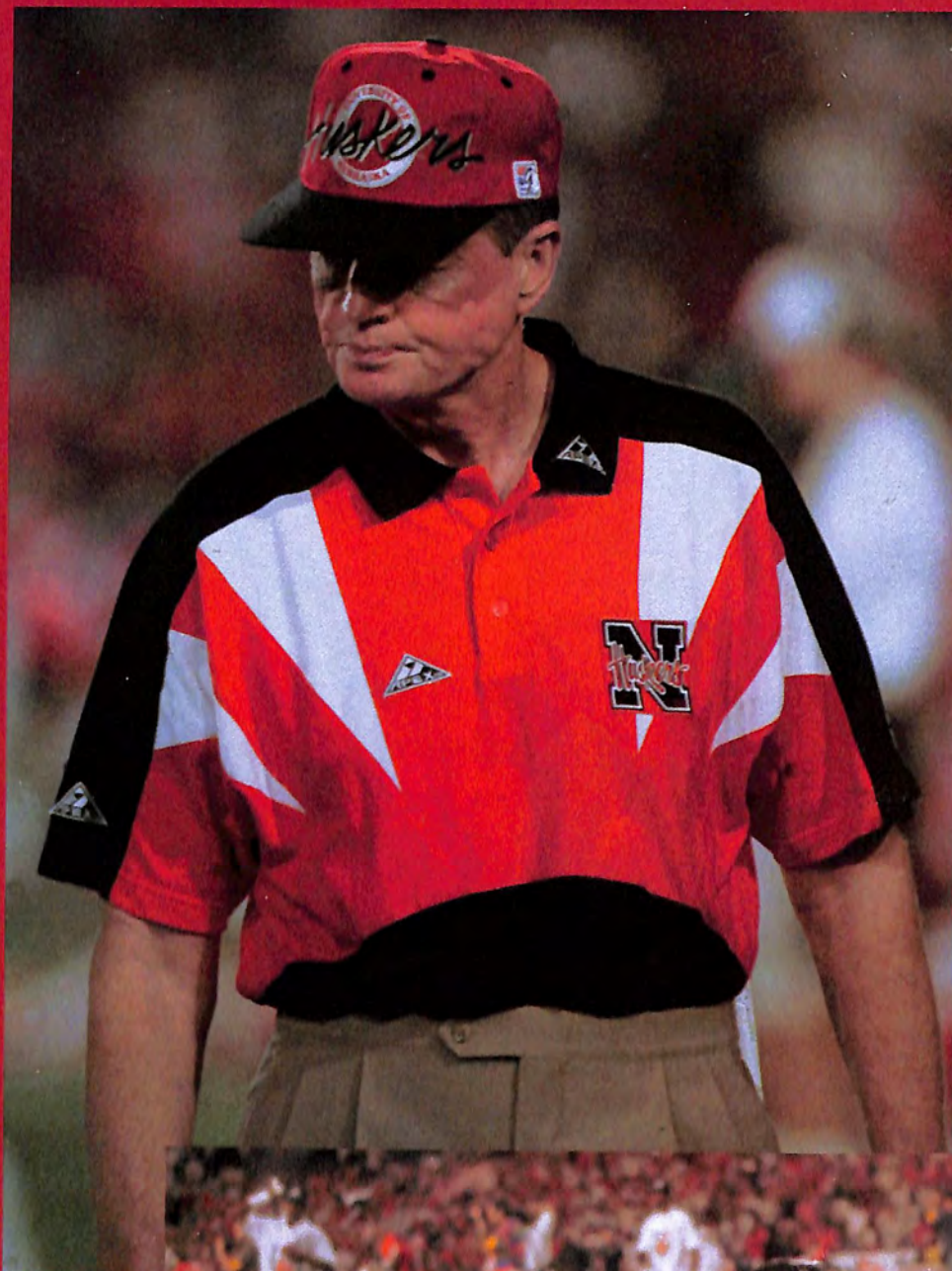
SACK



DONATA JONES WAS KEY IN KEEPING CONSTANT PRESSURE ON COSTA THROUGHOUT THE GAME.



BARRON MILES WAS GREAT AT KEEPING THE MIAMI PLAYERS "WRAPED-UP" DURING THE GAME.

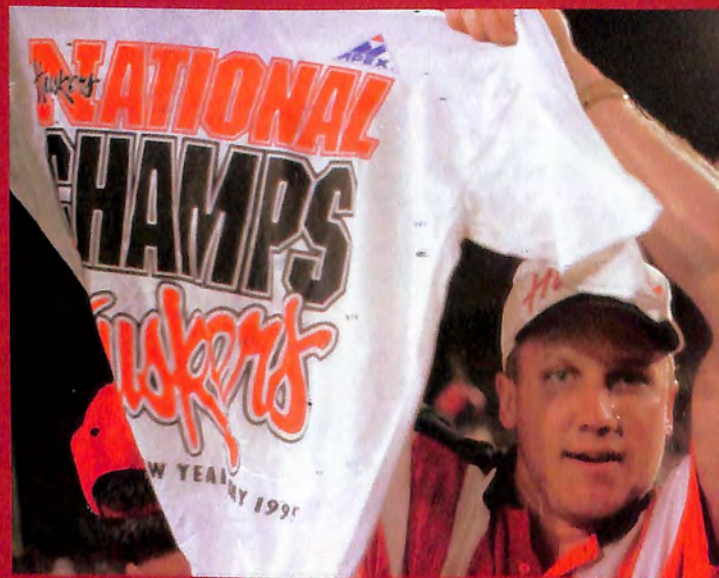


Osborne was masterful
in organizing his
game plan.....



The once mighty Canes
kneel before the newly
crowned champs.

CELEBRATION





ON THE REBOUND

BY GRANT KAUFFMAN

The time to focus is now for the Nebraska men's basketball team. With the non-conference schedule behind them, the Huskers prepare to take on the Big 8. And like with any year, it will be a battle night in and night out. To win on the road is difficult, to win at home is a must. The task is easily defined; steal some road wins while staying away from a home letdown. A record fifth consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament is on the line. Are the Huskers ready?

On paper, yes, but as everyone knows, that's not good enough. In December, the Huskers breezed through their schedule finishing 11-1. Their only loss was to Virginia Tech in San Juan. Highlighted by an overtime victory over then 15th ranked Michigan State, Nebraska showed signs of brilliance. Transfer guard Tom Wald has added stability to the point guard position, strengthening an already guard oriented team.

Erick Strickland and Jaron Boone were and continue to be the team leaders. The two must continue to produce for the Huskers if they are to have any chance to finish in the top tier of the Big 8.

In January, the Big Red ran into a major snag in Texas, losing by 28. But Nebraska is committed to putting the game behind them. Texas was a great experience for this team as Big 8 play on the road will be much the same. If the Huskers hope to have any success, it must avoid such performances.

The month of January should tell a lot about this basketball team. After playing Missouri at home, Long Beach State on the road and Kansas State back at home, the Huskers move into the most telling stretch of games. After a January 18th road game at Missouri-Kansas City, the Huskers travel to Kansas to take on the Jayhawks. Playing in Allen field house is the truest test of any team. Five days later, Nebraska travels to Norman to face the new and improved Sooners. The next two games after that are home games with Oklahoma State and Oklahoma on February 1st and 5th.

After those eight games, Nebraska's future should be somewhat clear. Until that point, it is a guessing game as to what this team will accomplish. What they are capable of accomplishing is unlimited, but if they can get it done is still pending. FINAL SCORE took it upon ourselves to point out what we feel are the keys to this team's success.

FINAL SCORE KEYS:

1) Guard Play: All great teams have great guard play and Nebraska should have no problem getting that out of Strickland and Boone. The question is can Tom Wald

After those eight games, Nebraska's future should be somewhat clear. Until that point, it is a guessing game as to what this team will accomplish. What they are capable of accomplishing is unlimited, but if they can get it done is still pending. FINAL SCORE took it upon ourselves to point out what we feel are the keys to this team's success.

FINAL SCORE KEYS:

1) Guard Play: All great teams have great guard play and Nebraska should have no problem getting that out of Strickland and Boone. The question is can Tom Wald continue to produce down the stretch. If he can, and he is very capable, this gives Nebraska a true point guard which leaves Boone as the shooting guard, his natural position. With Wald, Boone and Strickland in the game at the same time, the Huskers have an explosive backcourt. Competing with teams like Kansas on the road relies heavily on guard play.

2) Rebounding, Rebounding, Rebounding! Terrance Badgett, Melvin Brooks, Mikki Moore and Chris Sallee have to hit the boards heavily. In fact, they must be relentless on the glass, showing no tentativeness. If they can control the boards against the smaller teams and hold their own against the Big Countrys and Ostertags, they can win some ball games.

3) Mental Toughness: This holds true with any team who wants to excel, but it holds extra true with this years Huskers. They have to avoid the kind of mental letdown they had at Texas. Granted, there will always be some letdowns by every team in the nation. Everybody goes through adversity, the question is how will Nebraska handle it. If they can rise above it and continue to play up to their potential, they can be very successful. If they can't, they might end up NIT-picking at seasons end.

4) Consistency: Again, with any successful team, consistency is a huge factor. Nebraska needs to keep its level of play on high. They can not take the Colorados for granted. If they stay focused on the big picture, they can accomplish a great deal.

Those are our four main keys at this point of the season as we see it. We will continue to update the progress of the Huskers as the season moves on.

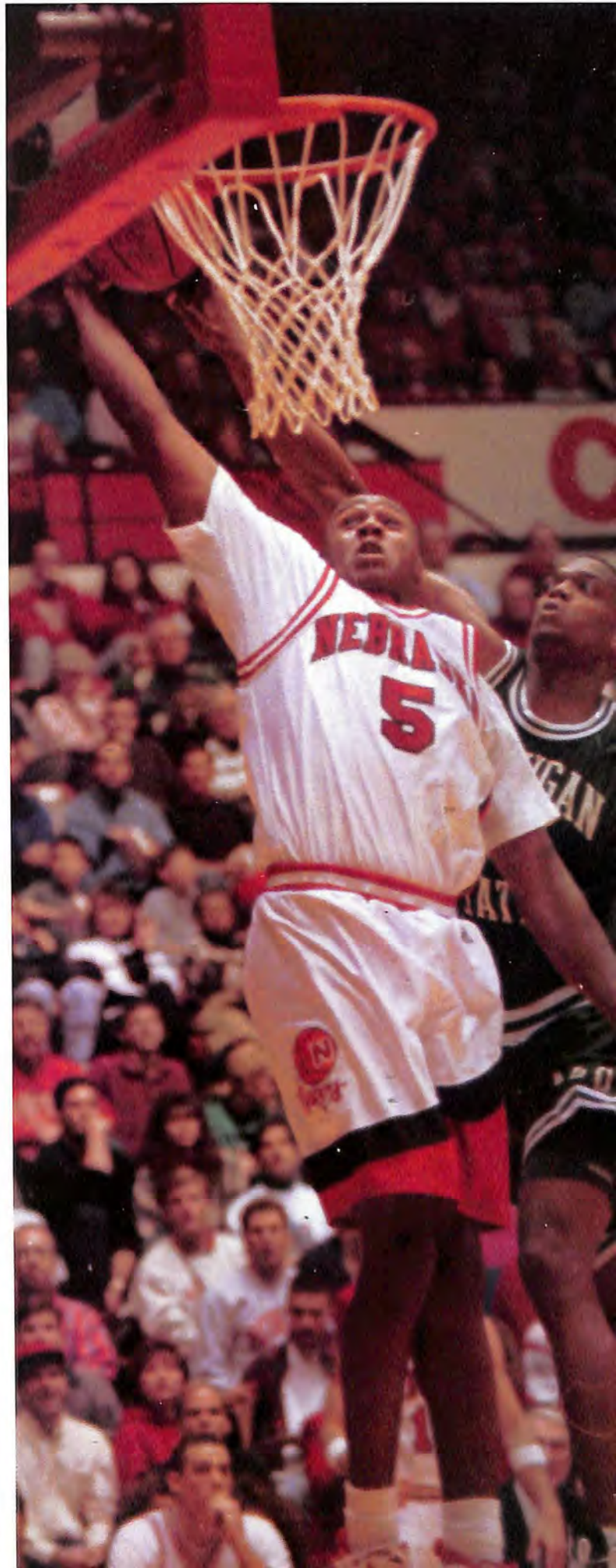
JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

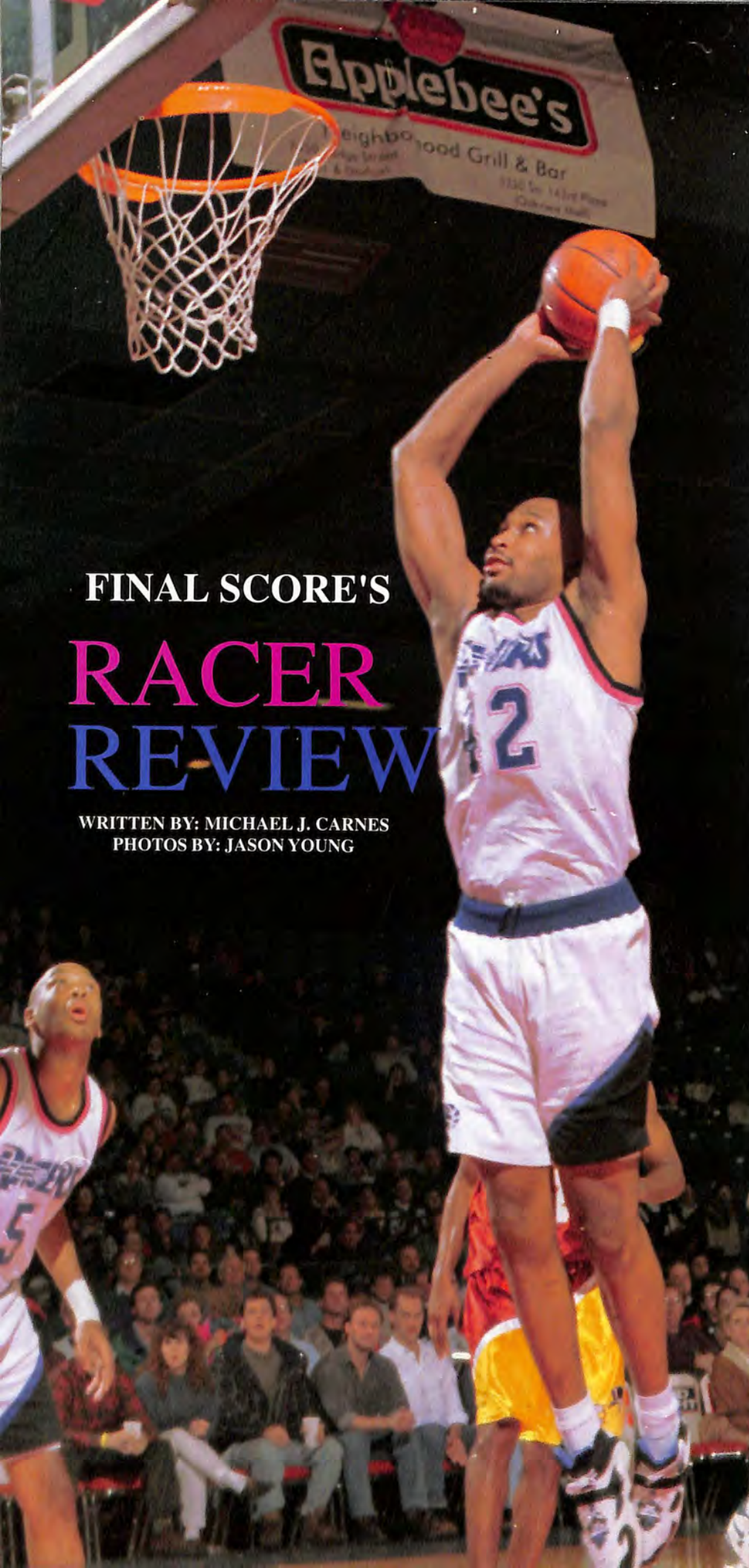
JANUARY

- 18 at Missouri-Kansas City (7:35)
- 23 at Kansas (8:30)
- 28 at Oklahoma (2:50)

FEBRUARY

- 1 Oklahoma State (8:05)
- 5 Oklahoma (12:30)
- 8 at Colorado (8:05)





FINAL SCORE'S RACER REVIEW

WRITTEN BY: MICHAEL J. CARNES
PHOTOS BY: JASON YOUNG

EXITING FANS MISSED COMEBACK

Those in the crowd of 3,325 who decided to make an early exit missed an exciting finish in the Omaha Racers' 120-119 win Dec. 10 over the Sioux Falls Skyforce.

Sioux Falls took a 115-99 lead with 4:33 left, sending several fans toward the exits in an effort to beat the post-game traffic. But those who figured the Racers' three-game winning streak was through got a big surprise when they picked up the morning newspaper the following day.

Omaha went on a 21-4 explosion, with Sean Gay hitting the game-winner with 5.5 seconds left on a great move to the basket.

"I don't care if Michael Jordan joined this team," an overjoyed Coach Mike Thibault said after the game. "When it comes to crunch time, I want Sean Gay to have the ball. We knew if they double-teamed him, he could kick it out to Coop (Duane Cooper) or Bart (Kofoed)."

Thibault said an adjustment by Sebastian Neal helped get Gay open for the deciding shot. "Sebastian changed the angle of the screen he set, and that got Sean open for the hoop."

The game wasn't in the bag after Gay's shot, though. Omaha had to make one last defensive stand and Cooper made a great defensive play, forcing a poor shot from 28 feet out that landed harmlessly short.

"That was a big win for us," Cooper said after the game. "Everybody stepped up and we all pulled together and showed a lot of character."

It was an exhausting end to an exhausting stretch of games for the Racers. The team stumbled twice on back-to-back games at Yakima, then won two at Mexico City and one at Oklahoma City before the win over Sioux Falls ended a stretch of six games in eight days.

"We gave one away in Yakima, but we became a lot more unselfish as the trip went on," Thibault said of the team's longest road trip of the year.

THRILL OF VICTORY, AGONY OF DEFEATS

The Omaha Racers experienced the most thrilling of comebacks and the most humiliating of defeats, all in a four-day span.

Dec. 10, the Racers made one of the more dramatic comebacks in CBA history, erasing a 16-point deficit in the final 4:30 to defeat the Sioux Falls Skyforce 120-119 in front of over 3,000 fans at the Ak-Sar-Ben Arena.

Four nights later, the two teams clashed in South Dakota, and the Skyforce humiliated the Racers with the biggest defeat in CBA history - 158 to 88.

The 70-point margin of victory was the largest in CBA history, bettering the record of 57 points set when the Detroit Spirits (now the Mexico Aztecas) bombed the Cincinnati Slammers (now the Tri-City Chinook), 140-83, on Dec. 20, 1984.

"I feel like I need to be in a bomb shelter," Thibault told the *Omaha World-Herald* after the game. "It was the ugliest game I've ever been involved in. I mean ever."

A total of 16 technical fouls were called in the game, 10 on the Racers. Thibault and Gay were both ejected, and Kofoed, Neal, Nate Higgs and Daryl Johnson also got whistled for technicals.

The disaster was followed two nights later when the Racers let a 14-point lead get away in a 127-114 home loss to the Oklahoma City Cavalry. The loss prompted Thibault to issue a warning that changes would be made if things didn't improve.

When Omaha played conference rival Rapid City Dec. 21, it looked like the Racers were back on the right track. They jumped out to a 45-28 first-quarter lead, but a hyperextended knee by Neal put an already injury-depleted team on the ropes, and the Thrillers came back for a 131-128 overtime win.

FORMER RACERS COMING BACK

Two former Omaha Racers returned to the team this month, and one is already providing the team some much-needed help inside.

Melvin Robinson scored 17 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked five shots in the Racers' 115-98 win over the Harrisburg Hammerheads Jan. 5 at the Ak.

Robinson, who was recently cut by the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves, had his rights, along with Daryl Johnson's, acquired by the Racers last summer in a trade with the Rockford Lightning for Chad Gallagher.

Johnson chipped in 18 points and seven assists to go along with Robinson's effort. For the record, Gallagher is playing in Argentina and is not with the Lightning. A good trade, needless to say, for the Racers' organization.

Thibault said the addition of Robinson is sorely needed for a team that is last in the CBA in rebounding and blocked shots.

"He gives us a presence in the middle, and I think that will help Malcolm Mackey out," he said.

Robinson's hard work inside has come despite his being on the injured list for much of the season. He saw limited action during the pre-season before his injury, but has received some help



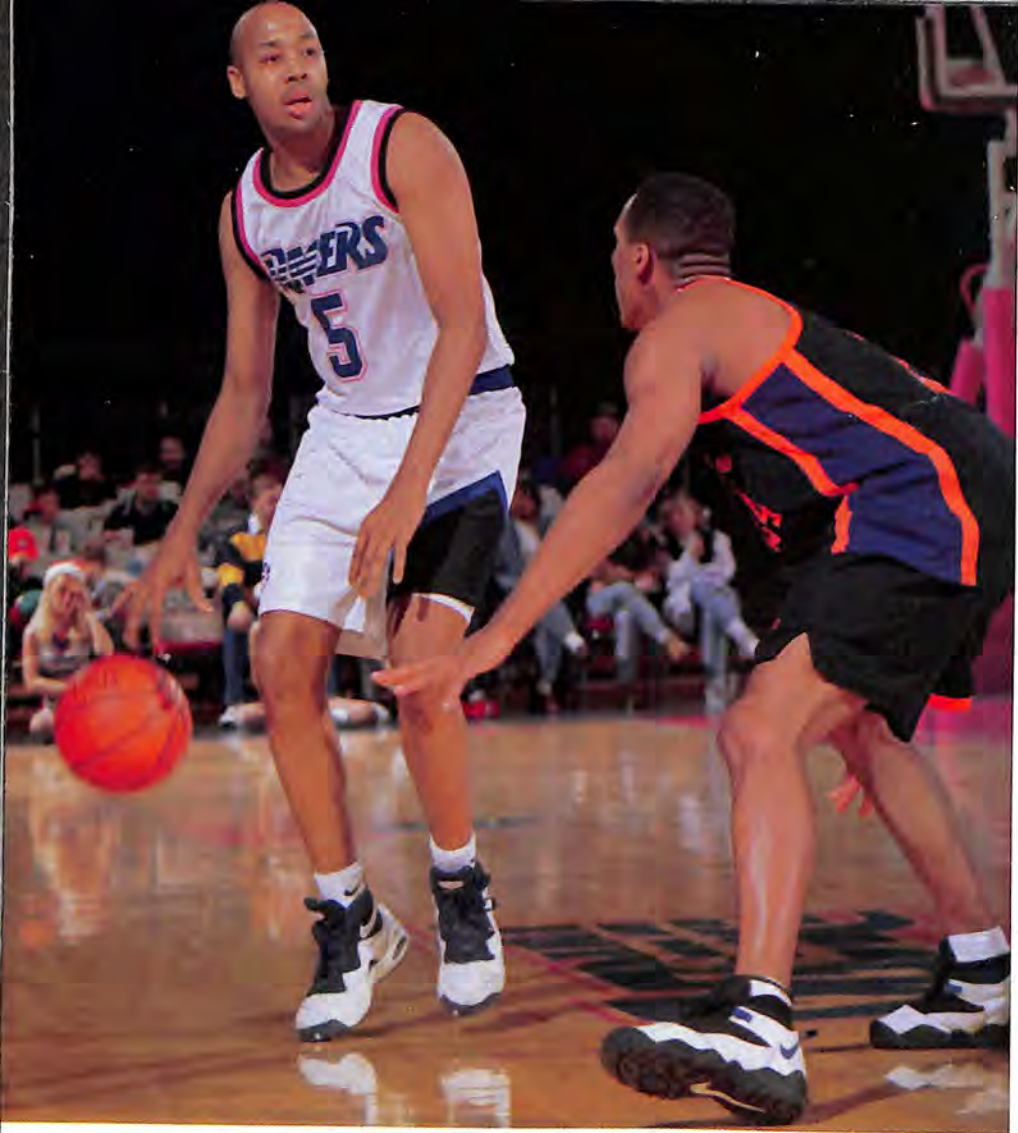
from a former NBA great - former Boston Celtic and current T-Wolves assistant general manager Kevin McHale.

Another former Racer, Mario Donaldson, is also expected to join the team soon. He has played in Australia and is awaiting official clearance from FIBA, the international basketball organization before he can suit up.

FANS HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES

Fans will have ample opportunity to catch the Racers at the Ak this month, as Omaha plays eight of its 11 scheduled games this month on its home court.

Hopefully, fan support will be better than it has been during the start of the season. Latest attendance figures show Omaha



13th in the 16-team CBA in average attendance, a figure that baffles Thibault.

"In the history of this franchise, we've never been a great draw in December," he said. "We play a lot of our home games after the first of the year, but I still can't put my finger on it. We play with a lot of intensity and we're a fun team to watch and we have good players. (The lack of fan support) is hard to understand."

We find it difficult to figure out as well. If this was a team like Shreveport that's in last place and struggling, that's one thing. But this is the two-time National Conference and 1993 CBA champions we're talking about. You'd think they'd be playing to crowds of 4,000-plus in the 5,500-seat Ak-Sar-Ben arena, rather than the 2,406 that showed up for the Jan. 5 win over Harrisburg.

The home stand started Jan. 11 with Sioux Falls, followed by back-to-back games against Shreveport and Quad City Jan. 13-14. After a Jan. 16 game at Rockford, Omaha closes January with Mexico City (Jan. 19), Rockford (Jan. 21), Tri-City (Jan. 27) and Oklahoma City (Jan. 28).

Putting together a nice string of wins this month would give the Racers a big boost in their quest for a division title, which would also include a first-round bye for the playoffs.

"It's important for us to have a good month this month if we want to have a chance to win the division," Thibault said. "I think we need to win seven or eight this month to get in a position to win the division. It wouldn't kill us if we didn't, but it would make the last part of the season easier, so we've got to take advan-

tage of it."

After the Jan. 16 game at Rockford, 16 of Omaha's final 29 games are at the Ak-Sar-Ben Arena.

DOWN THE STRETCH...

Other notes from the Racers camp:

* Assistant coach Bart Kofoed saw some playing time last month, making his first appearance in the Racers' 120-119 win over Sioux Falls Dec. 10.

Kofoed said he thought he had played out of his system, but felt he needed to get back out on the court.

Kofoed played well until a ruptured eardrum required surgery, forcing the Omaha Westside graduate back to a coaching-only situation.

"It's hard for him to do both jobs at once," Thibault said. "Bart's an emotional player, but he can't be as emotional in the coaching box."

Thibault said seeing Kofoed back on the floor isn't out of the question, as he could play in an emergency.

* Another Omaha native has been picked up by the Racers, but don't expect to see him on the floor anytime soon.

Omaha Benson grad and Nebraska great Dave Hoppen was acquired by the Racers as part of a deal with the Quad City Thunder.

The Racers sent the rights to Keith Turner to Quad City in exchange for the Thunder's first round draft pick in the 1995 CBA draft and the rights to Hoppen.

Thibault said the Racers were most interested in getting the draft pick, but felt the rights to Turner were worth more than a pick.

"With Melvin on the roster, that doesn't leave any room for anybody," Thibault said. "But if somebody gets called up, then (adding Hoppen) would be something we'd look at."

* People in Missouri were shocked when Tiger standout Melvin Booker was cut by the Racers before the start of the season.

Booker was part of an overabundance of quality guards the Racers had in their pre-season camp, but he has landed back in the CBA with the Hartford Hellcats.

Booker was signed by the Hellcats Dec. 12.

CBA SCHEDULE

Following is a list of scheduled CBA games for Jan. 16 through Feb. 5. Omaha games are listed in italics:

Monday, Jan. 16: Grand Rapids at Harrisburg, Rapid City at Pittsburgh, *Omaha at Rockford.*

Tuesday, Jan. 17: Chicago at Hartford, Fort Wayne at Grand Rapids, Yakima at Shreveport.

Wednesday, Jan. 18: Rockford at Harrisburg, Hartford at Chicago, Pittsburgh at Quad City.

Thursday, Jan. 19: *Mexico at Omaha.*

Friday, Jan. 20: Harrisburg at Hartford, Chicago at Pittsburgh, Rockford at Grand Rapids, Tri-City at Quad City, Mexico at Shreveport, Oklahoma City at Rapid City, Sioux Falls at Yakima.

Saturday, Jan. 21: Hartford at Pittsburgh, Harrisburg at Fort Wayne, Quad City at Grand Rapids, *Rockford at Omaha,* Shreveport at Oklahoma City, Tri-City at Rapid City, Sioux Falls at Yakima.

Tuesday, Jan. 24: CBA All-Star Game at Hartford, CT.

Thursday, Jan. 26: Yakima at Hartford, Mexico at Harrisburg, Quad City at Shreveport, Oklahoma City at Sioux Falls.

Friday, Jan. 27: Mexico at Pittsburgh, Yakima at Fort Wayne, Hartford at Grand Rapids, Harrisburg at Chicago, Rapid City at Rockford, *Tri-City at Omaha.*

Saturday, Jan. 28: Pittsburgh at Grand Rapids, Quad City at Chicago, Fort Wayne at Rockford, *Oklahoma City at Omaha,* Tri-City at Shreveport, Rapid City at Sioux Falls.

Sunday, Jan. 29: Yakima at Harrisburg.

Monday, Jan. 30: Mexico at Hartford, Yakima at Pittsburgh.

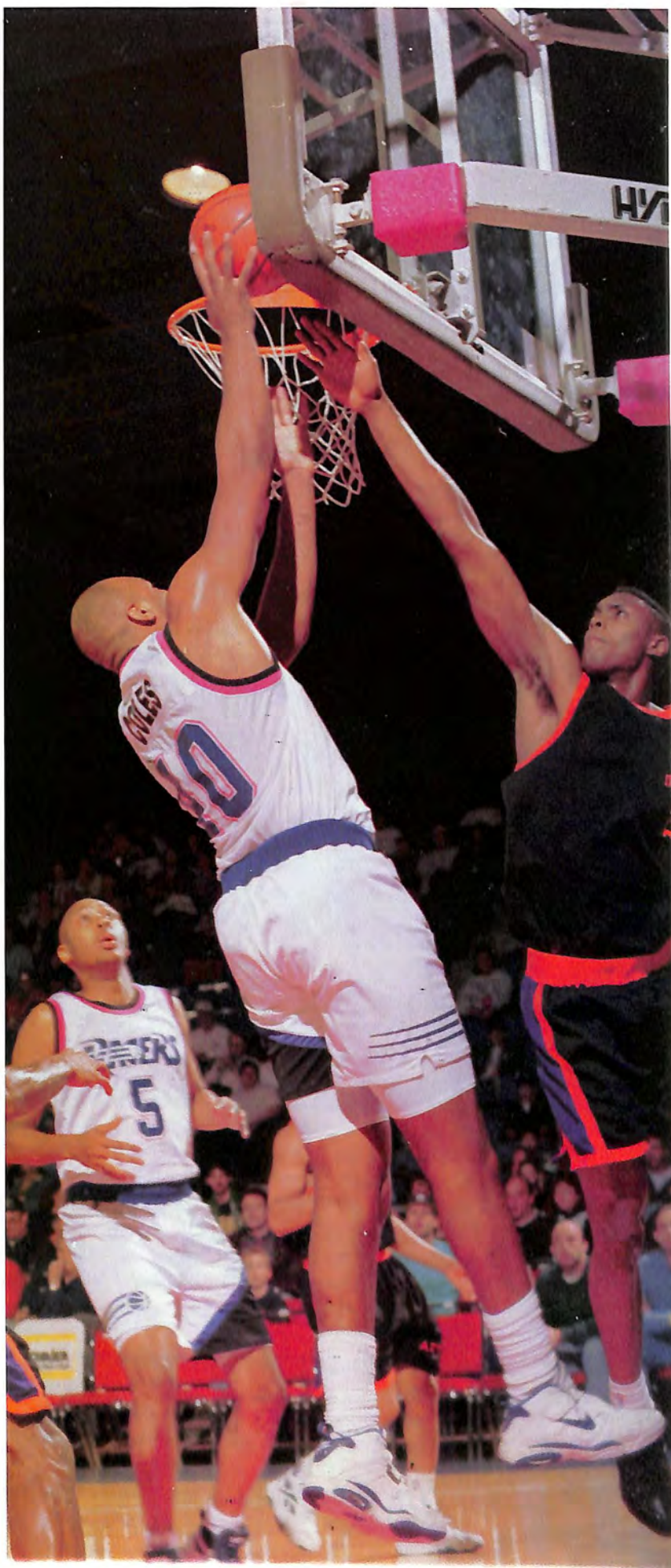
Tuesday, Jan. 31: Mexico at Fort Wayne, Quad City at Oklahoma City.

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Harrisburg at Pittsburgh, Rockford at Chicago, Grand Rapids at Quad City, Sioux Falls at Shreveport, Rapid City at Tri-City, *Omaha at Yakima.*

Friday, Feb. 3: Grand Rapids at Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne at Chicago, Hartford at Quad City, Sioux Falls at Oklahoma City, Shreveport at Mexico, *Omaha at Tri-City,* Rapid City at Yakima.

Saturday, Feb. 4: Fort Wayne at Grand Rapids, Sioux Falls at Chicago, Harrisburg at Rockford, Hartford at Oklahoma City, Shreveport at Mexico, *Omaha at Tri-City,* Rapid City at Yakima.

Sunday, Feb. 5: Pittsburgh at Quad City.



FINAL SCORE



BACK IN THE HUNT

*THE LANCERS ARE LOOKING FOR A BOOST INTO THE PLAYOFFS WITH AN IMPROVED SECOND
HALF OF THE SEASON.*

JASON YOUNG - FINAL SCORE



For most USHL teams, the season begins in October. For the Lancers, their season seems to start in January. More so than any other USHL team, the Lancers have owned the second half of the season. Why?

Ask ten different people and you're likely to get ten different answers. Team President, Ted Baer says it has to do with maturity. "We seem to year-in and year-out have one of the younger teams in the league. I think it just takes them time to get used to playing as a unit." Others will tell you it has to do with conditioning, or their favorable schedule. Make no mistake about it though, the Lancers feel they have Des Moines, Dubuque, St. Paul and Thunder Bay right where they want them.

Look at the 1993-94 team. It only had five returning players from the previous year. Of those five, only three saw regular ice time. They put together a 19-5-0 second half and although Des Moines had a large enough lead to hang on to win the Anderson Cup (regular season title), the Lancers rode that momentum to an upset Clark Cup (play-off title) Championship and did it Des Moines' home ice.

Another possible reason for second half heroics is trades. Last season, Omaha acquired Scott Parmentier, from last-

place North Iowa to cement an already top-notch offense. Parmentier went on to Des Moines and racked up 20 points in 15 regular season games.

The most celebrated late-season acquisition was that of goaltender, Chris Gordon, in the 1989-90 season. Gordon had been with a Waterloo team that finished 7-38-3, but concluded the season in Omaha.

Jason Van Herik was already in Omaha and he had a great All-USHL team and propelled Omaha to an unprecedented 9 game sweep in the playoffs.

If you think 19-5-0 in the second half of the season in 1993-94 was impressive, what about the 1992-93 team? They went 20-4-9 and racked up 74 points. Sure, wins in October and November are nice, but no team ever wins titles in the fall. It's Feb-

ruary and March when you want to have everything clicking.

Why are the Lancers the most feared USHL second-half team? Let 'em count the ways:

1. The Lancers traditionally get socked with a tough first half schedule. This season they had to play nearly one-third of their road games before t

heir home opener.

2. This season they had substantially more returning players. However, they also had a new coach. It's taken a little bit of time for Mike Hastings to make this his team.

3. The top returning scorer, Brian Swanson missed 11 games due to a knee injury. Although he has re-aggravated it, Swanson figures to be lineup soon. Even if Brian doesn't score like he did last season, his presence is important.

4. Adversity. This team went through a five-game losing streak in November and showed they can bounce back from it. Many other teams might've been sunk going through a slump like that.

5. Balance. During a recent game at North Iowa, six top forwards didn't tally a point and the Lancers still scored eight goals.

6. Experience. The surprise return of Josh Wiegand, after leaving Michigan State, will give them another forward who's "been there" before.

7. Crowds. Sure, all the home games are already sold out, but when it gets really cold in January and February, that's when fans seem to really get into it at the AK. When they're at the loudest, there's no place like the

AK-SAR-BEN home-ice advantage.

Well, it's not a top ten list, but after a 14-8-2 first half, the Lancers played Des Moines to a 3-3 tie and showed they are the Buccaneers equal. By now the rest of the USHL knows when the Orange Bowl is over, then it's REALLY hockey time in Omaha!

LOOSE PUCKS: After the first half of the season it's easy to see which goaltender likes which rink... Aaron Vickar is 5-0-1 with a 2.50 GAA on the road... his counterpart, L.J. Scarpace is 5-0-1 at home with 2.27 GAA... the top scorer for December was Jerry Keefe with seven goals and seven assists... Josh Wiegand scored in his first six games upon returning to Omaha... out of their first two games this season the Lancers played nine that went into OT... Omaha is the host of the USHL All-Star game 1/31/95... Omaha is on the North Squad... instead of separating the teams into NORTH/SOUTH, it would be more accurate to call the two teams "Iowa/NON-IOWA" as all five Iowa's teams compromise the South squad... next Lancer telecast on 02TV is Friday 2/3 vs. Waterloo... the Lancers will do their first-ever live road telecast Saturday, February 25 at Des Moines...

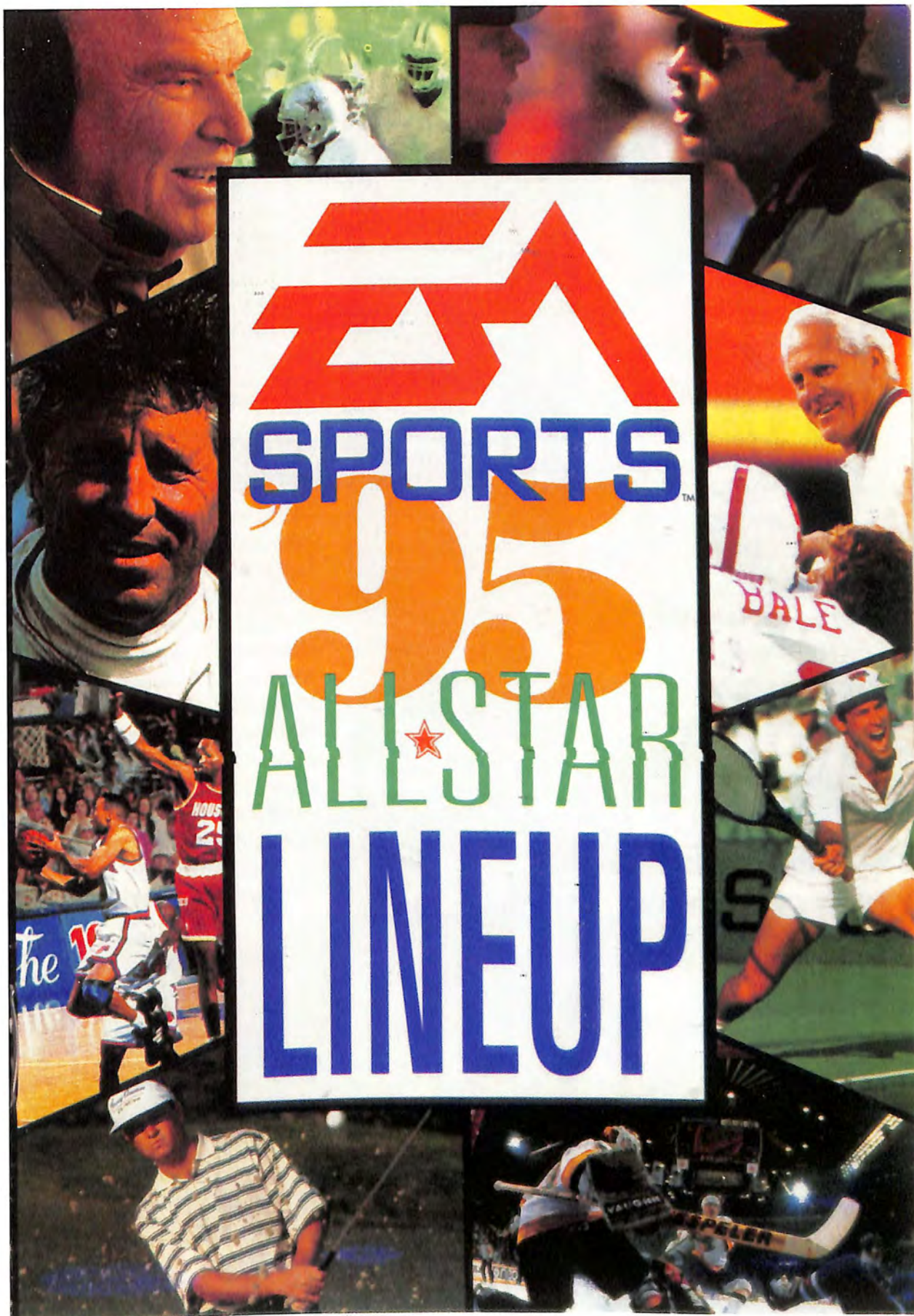
RECENT SECOND HALF FINISHES

1989-90	21-3-0
1990-91	16-7-1
1991-92	13-11-0
1992-93	20-4-0
1993-94	19-5-0
Total	89-30-1 .746 WIN PERCENTAGE

FINAL SCORE



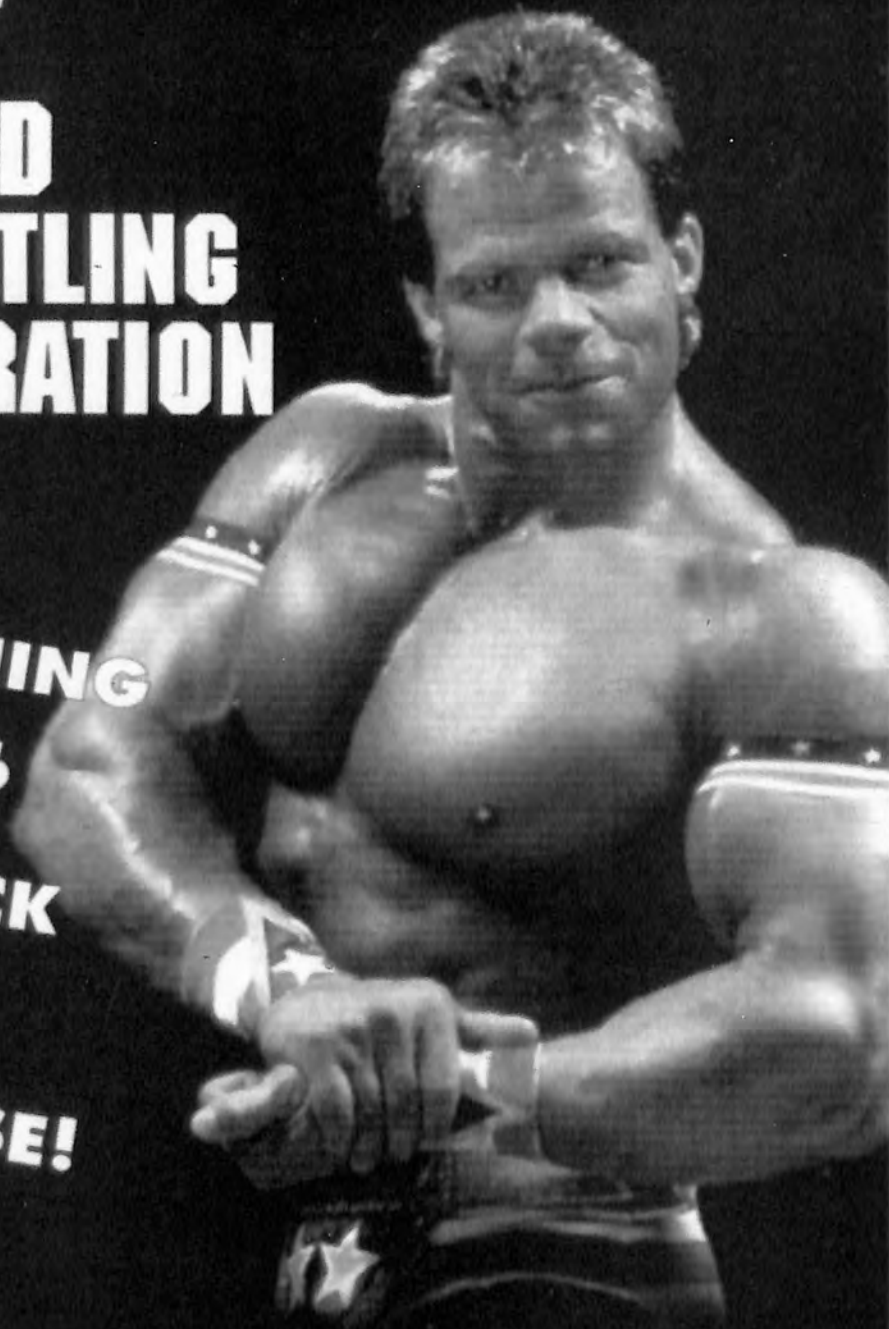
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Playing the Field

By John Bishop

Now it's our turn.

It's about time isn't it? We've shared success with so many. Some may say we've shared too much. The Miamis, Colorados, Clemsons, and Georgia Tech all used Tom Osborne as a stepping stone to greatness, now it's our turn.

As the fourth quarter of the 1995 Fed-Ex Orange Bowl unfolded it became clear that the team best known for blowing a lot of hot air before the game was sucking the most wind during the game and the team that had made three near-fatal errors in the first 52 minutes was perfect in the final eight.

This game was a microcosm of the season that preceded it. A team that seemed destined for success, beset by unexpected obstacles, winning not by the performance of one man, but of one unit. This was the team of interchangeable parts.

As I watched this Orange Bowl several thoughts went thru my mind. I was there eleven January's ago when Tom Osborne's first national championship was supposed to be won. I couldn't help being reminded of the war zone atmosphere that existed that night. Despite those memories, I will miss not having the opportunity to see the Huskers play in the Orange Bowl stadium in a championship setting. As the new Bowl Alliance and Joe Robbie Stadium take the place of the old Bowl Coalition and the Orange Bowl, I can't help think that there's something special about winning an Orange Bowl in the Orange Bowl. Winning there is like slaying the dragon, winning the lottery, and dating the prom queen, all in the same night. If you won an Orange Bowl you were somebody. I will miss the Orange Bowl in the Orange Bowl with the title on the line.

Will Tom Osborne ever show his emotional side? If there was ever a time to see him burst emotionally, this was it. I did see a smile and some claim to have witnessed a tear in his eye upon arrival to the packed Devaney Center, but the man more known for his stoic demeanor and workmanlike attitude never escaped his armor casing, but there may be a chink.

While we are on the subject of the unflappable Osborne, that image carried over to his post-game comments on the polls. All season long, the coach said he would not lobby for number one votes. He didn't. After the win, he said winning thirteen games was a great achievement, but never once tried to compare his undefeated season with Penn State's. Joe Paterno vowed the same. He would not beg, like Terry Bowden, for number one consideration. Paterno seemed to fall from that soapbox after the

Rose Bowl. Though he didn't say his team was better than Nebraska, he did manage to take exception to comments that his team's opponents were of lesser quality than the Huskers. You can understand Joe Pa's frustration. This was his fourth undefeated team not to be voted number one at season's end. Maybe that's why he plans to raise a national championship banner regardless of what the voters said.

Penn State can go a long way to see that this does not happen again. Much to the chagrin of some Big Ten traditionals, the Nittany Lions are the conference's most important members now. The Big Ten and Penn State came together because they needed each other. Penn State needed a conference into and the Big Ten needed to show it could remain a leader in the intercollegiate athletics. And don't think for a moment that the Big Ten big wigs didn't see the superconferences coming. The key to a playoff system is the Rose Bowl. The Big Ten and the Pacific Ten are the only two conferences to shun the Bowl Alliance motion. Their motive was greed. The Rose Bowl paid as much as two million dollars more than the next richest bowl.

Now the Alliance championship bowl will pay two million dollars more than the Rose Bowl next season. The Big Ten is becoming impatient, the Pac Ten is scratching their heads, and Penn State is clawing at the wallpaper to get some semblance of a playoff system in place. Penn State needs to press the Big Ten to press the PAC Ten to press the Rose Bowl into joining the Bowl Alliance. Get #1 vs. #2 before this type of season happens again. Penn State's been left out in the Cold four times, they will not be around Big Ten country for a fifth.

Enough of Penn State, we remember the expanding sideline of 1982, let them remember the "election" of 1994.

The Orange Bowl of 1995 is like the world's largest eraser. Gone is the notion that Osborne can't win the bowl game. Gone is the idea that Osborne's coaching style of work over talk, run over pass and process over victory is antiquated. Gone is the mystique that Miami can't be beat, in the Orange Bowl at night.

As 35-31 will be remembered for Devaney's greatest victory. 17-14 for Osborne's greatest upset. The score 24-17 will forever be known as Osborne's finest hour. Now it's his turn.

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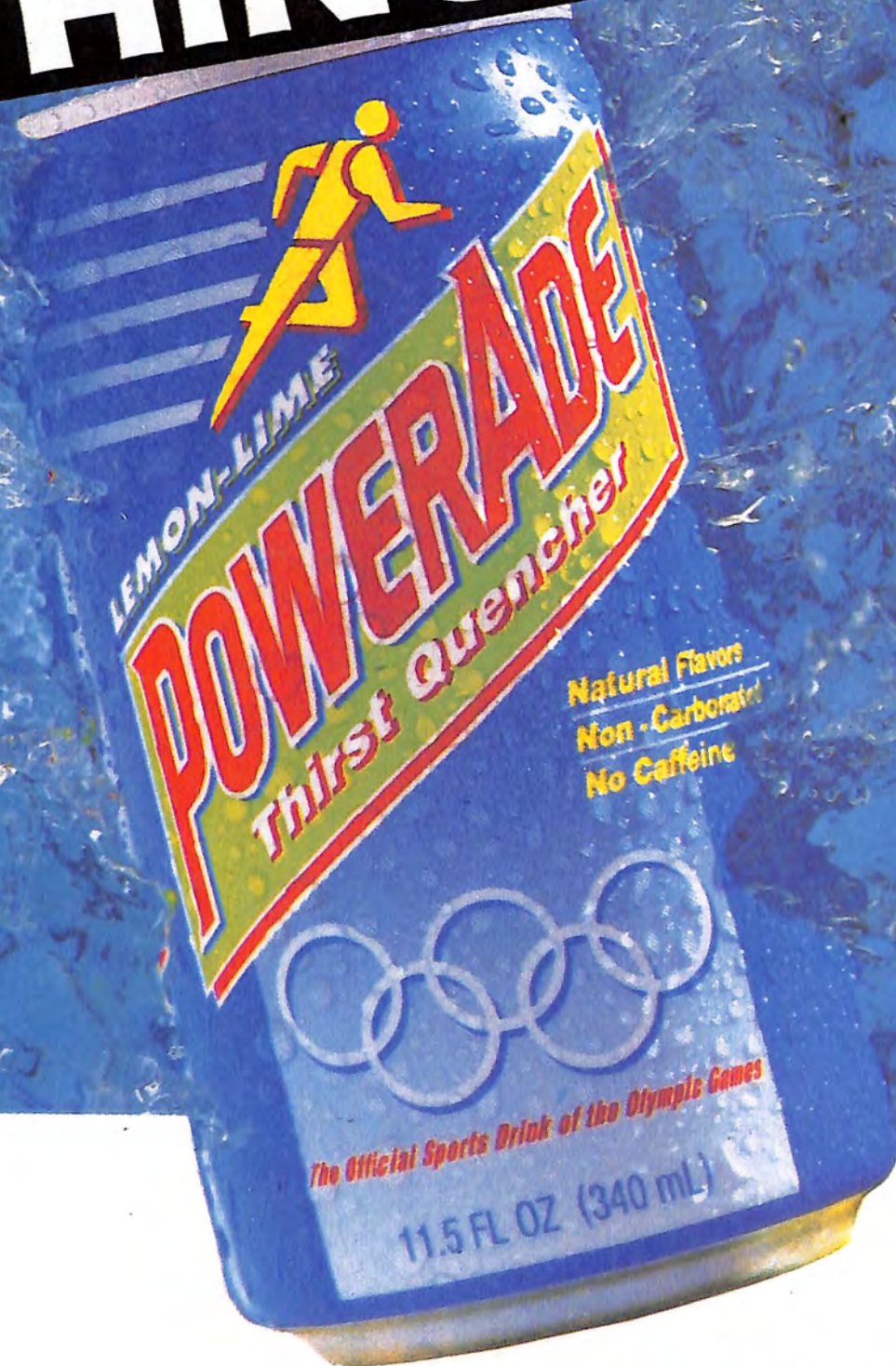
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